

IMMUNISATION FAST FACTS



25 MAR 2021

Welcome to the third issue of Auckland PHO's Immunisation Fast Facts. We are aware that in this 'Year of the Vaccine' there appears to be missing information regarding vaccine sequencing and timing. We are waiting on the MoH to confirm roll out dates for influenza vaccination as well as for COVID-19 vaccinations. We appreciate it is frustrating for all of us and as soon as we have information, we will pass it on. If you have any questions about any of the topics in these Fast Facts, contact Shanaz Khan, Immunisation Services Coordinator for Auckland PHO – shanaz@aucklandpho.co.nz

Timely Delivery of Childhood immunisations

Our practice network continue to provide great immunisation coverage, it is always a good idea to, from time to time consider the multiple strategies that can be used to improve immunisation coverage and timeliness. Consider the following:

- Identify an immunisation champion who has dedicated time each week to undertake immunisation work
- Notify Shanaz of any new practice nurses on the team to arrange support advice and training
- Use a pre-call/re-call system to facilitate the identification of children for whom vaccination is due or overdue
- Provide simple and appropriate information to the parent/caregiver or whanau in a factual way over several appointments
- After a vaccination is given, discuss the next immunisation milestone and ensure an appointment is booked, giving the parent/caregiver or whanau a reminder card and a reminder text a few days before
- Use education strategies such as general practice immunisation campaign week to promote immunisation messages
- Display immunisation posters and have immunisation brochures readily available
- Implement processes to regularly assess the immunisation status of children, for example if a vaccination is declined or delayed for a child by the parent/caregiver or whanau set a reminder in the child's record to periodically revisit this decision
- Record the reason for any delay, decline or 'opt off' the register so that strategies to address the needs of local population can be developed
- Ensure that the PMS has records of immunisation status for newly enrolled children to identify what vaccines are required

MMR Catch Up Programme

It's been great to see improvements in MMR coverage for 15-30-year olds as part of the measles immunisation campaign. MMR and influenza continue to be important priorities for the National Immunisation Programme. The following advice will be useful in progressing these before COVID-19 vaccines become available to the public.

For more information on immunisation updates, click [here](#).

[Advice from Ministry of Health on administering MMR and the COVID-19 vaccine to Tier 1 workers](#)

MOH recommend having a **four-week gap** between receiving the MMR and the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

There may be an overlap between the 15-30-year olds targeted by the MMR immunisation campaign and people working at the border or MIQ facilities and their household contacts who are eligible for the first roll-out of COVID-19 vaccine (Tier 1 workers).

- Screen Tier 1 workers coming in for MMR catch-up vaccine by asking if they are eligible for the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine as part of Tier 1 roll-out. These people will know who they are (see above).
- If someone is within four weeks of receiving the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, **priority should be given to the COVID-19 vaccine** over MMR.
- Re-book them for their MMR on completion of their two COVID-19 vaccine doses so that the opportunity to protect against measles is not lost.

2021 Influenza Immunisation Programme

The following has information about ordering influenza vaccines

FLUAD[®] QUAD (pre-orders can be placed from 15 March)

- For adults aged 65 years or older
- Only order FLUAD QUAD if you are vaccinating people aged 65+ years.
 - Online ordering at hcl.co.nz (preferred option) or download, print and fax the **FLUAD QUAD order form** (faxed or emailed orders incur a manual order processing fee of \$10 per order, toll-free fax: 0508 408 358).
- Funded for adults who are eligible to receive publicly funded healthcare services.
 - PHARMAC is funding this additional vaccine brand, a vaccine specifically made for those aged 65 and over, to ensure this important group has certainty of supply as early as possible, and to ensure there is enough influenza vaccine to meet demand and supply is continuous.
- Link to the [FLUAD QUAD data sheet](#) on the MedSafe website.

AFLURIA[®] QUAD (cannot be ordered at this time)

- For children and adults aged 3–64 years.
- Funded for children and adults who met the influenza vaccination eligibility criteria.
- Available for those who do not meet the funded eligibility criteria through private immunisation providers (general practitioners or pharmacists or occupational health) at a cost.
- The AFLURIA QUAD data sheet for 2021 is expected to become available on the Medsafe website in March.

AFLURIA[®] QUAD JUNIOR (cannot be ordered at this time)

- For children aged under 3 years, i.e., 6–35 months.
- Funded for children who met the influenza vaccination eligibility criteria.
- Available for those who do not meet the funded eligibility criteria through general practitioners at a cost.
- The AFLURIA QUAD JUNIOR data sheet for 2021 is expected to become available on the Medsafe website in March.
- UPDATE 8 March: AFLURIA QUAD JUNIOR will be supplied with needles (syringe with fixed needle).

Ordering needles for influenza vaccines

The AFLURIA QUAD and FLUAD QUAD vaccines for 2021 will be supplied without needles.

- Influenza vaccine needles need to be purchased separately, they are available from EBOS Healthcare or pharmacy wholesalers.

- The needles will be available to order from 15 March and will be distributed in the lead up to the programme start date.
- There are different needles for FLUAD QUAD and AFLURIA QUAD.
 - The order codes are described in the table below, it is important to use the correct code for the needles you want to order.

Influenza vaccine	Pharmacode	EBOS order code	Description	Pack size
FLUAD QUAD	2605627	21122020	BD Hypodermic needle 24g x 1" (purple)	100 needles per box
AFLURIA QUAD	2605619	21122019	BD Hypodermic needle 25g x 5/8" (orange)	100 needles per box

Seqirus has ordered adequate supplies of needles to support the Influenza Immunisation Programme.

EBOS Healthcare Phone (primary care): 0800 105 501 **Website:** eboshealthcare.co.nz

Start date and prioritisation period

The programme start date is 14 April, **although this may change to prioritise COVID-19 vaccinations.** Currently, there is a two-week prioritisation period for those eligible for a funded vaccination.

- For the first week of the prioritisation period, please focus on immunising adults aged 65 and over with FLUAD QUAD.
- For the second week of the prioritisation period, from 21 April, please extend this to include others eligible for a funded vaccination.
- Vaccination can then be extended to include the general population from 28 April 2020.
- The programme runs to 31 December 2021.
- Refer to the table below for details.

Vaccine	Ordering and distribution	14–20 April 2021	21–27 April 2021	28 April–31 December 2021
FLUAD® QUAD	Order from 15 March. Distribution after Easter.	Adults aged 65 and over including health and other frontline workers aged 65 and over	Adults aged 65 and over including health and other frontline workers aged 65 and over	Adults aged 65 and over including health and other frontline workers aged 65 and over
AFLURIA® QUAD	Dates will be advised in April		Eligible people aged under 65 years (see fightflu.co.nz) including health and other frontline workers aged under 65 years	All people aged under 65 years – eligible and non-eligible
AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR	Dates will be advised in April		Eligible children aged 6–35 months	All children aged 6–35 months – eligible and non-eligible.

- The start dates are later than in previous years based on information about vaccine availability provided by supplier Seqirus.
- It also takes into account the immunisation sector's requirement for more reliable and consistent access to the influenza vaccine, particularly at the start of the programme when demand is highest.
- The prioritisation period dates are based on programme goals and the availability of FLUAD QUAD, which is scheduled for distribution slightly earlier than AFLURIA QUAD JUNIOR and AFLURIA QUAD.
- This provides an opportunity for vaccinators to immunise those over 65 ahead of the influenza season and ahead of the COVID-19 vaccine becoming available for this group.

Equity

The Māori Influenza Vaccination Programme is continuing in 2021 as part of the Ministry of Health's commitment to improving equity for Māori. The programme will begin on 14 April 2021 for kaumātua Māori aged 65 and over. You can now find information about the 2021 influenza immunisation programme on the [Ministry's website](#).

The Ministry has worked closely with its partners to give immunisation providers more reliable access to the influenza vaccine. The later than usual start date is based on delivery dates, and to ensure there is plenty of vaccine available to meet demand from the start of the season. Information about groups eligible for a funded vaccination is available [here](#). If you require further information or if you have questions, please contact influenzaimmunisation@health.govt.nz

COVID-19 Vaccination

Vaccine FAQs in Pacific languages

The MoH and the Ministry for Pacific Peoples have created new resources with answers to frequently asked questions about the COVID-19 vaccine. They are available in [Cook Islands Māori](#), [Fijian](#), [Kiribati](#), [Niuean](#), [Rotuman](#), [Samoan](#), [Tokelauan](#), [Tongan](#), [Tuvaluan](#) and [English](#). [Read more](#).

COVID-19 vaccine resources

The MoH website provides free resources and information sheets on the COVID-19 vaccine and the vaccine rollout programme. The site includes links to translated resources available in te reo Māori, Cook Islands Māori, Fijian, Hindi, Niuean, Samoan, Simplified Chinese, Tagalog, Tokelauan and Tongan. [Read more](#).

Upcoming webinars from IMAC

Drop-in Q&A sessions

Join on Thursdays at 12pm (30 mins)

Ask panel of expert advisors and facilitators questions you may have about COVID-19 vaccinations, vaccines, training and the rollout in New Zealand.

[Register here](#)

How Comirnaty works and what we know about its safety (45 mins)

Presenters: Dr Helen Petousis-Harris - Associate Professor and vaccinologist, Director of the Vaccine Datalink and Research Group; Dr Emma Best - IMAC Medical Advisor.

When: 5pm, Wednesday 24 March ([register here](#));
12pm, Tuesday 30 March ([register here](#)).

COVID-19 vaccines for special groups and pregnancy (30 mins)

Presenter: Dr Edwin Reynolds - IMAC Medical Advisor.

When: 12pm, Tuesday 23 March ([register here](#))
5pm, Wednesday 31 March ([register here](#))

Thank you for your support and service