

IMMUNISATION FAST FACTS



12 MAY 2021

It's all systems go with the roll out of influenza vaccine for the under 65 years and the COVID-19 vaccine for the 65+ cohort. We are in unprecedented times and it is a credit to all who work in general practice who demonstrate their tireless efforts to keep their patients safe from vaccine preventable illnesses.

These Immunisation Fast Facts are loaded onto the Auckland PHO website under the same name if you need to reference previous information. Go well and keep up smiling!

If you have any questions about any of the topics in these *Immunisation Fast Facts*, contact Shanaz Khan, Immunisation Services Coordinator for Auckland PHO – shanaz@aucklandpho.co.nz

Reminder: Dual claiming for zostavax® and fluad® quad when given at the same visit is now automated

Up to now, when another funded vaccine is given at the same visit, only one immunisation benefit can be claimed. We are pleased to advise that there is now an automated dual claiming process to allow immunisation benefit claims to be accepted when administering **Zostavax** and **influenza** vaccines at the same visit and is fully automated within all PMS systems. Further information on claiming funded vaccines can be found here: <https://www.influenza.org.nz/claiming>

2021 Influenza Immunisation Campaign Update

The Ministry of Health recommends that children 0 – 4 years, who have been hospitalised with a respiratory condition or have a chronic medical condition are immunised against influenza. It is important to encourage immunisation for this group of patients as it can prevent further hospitalisations. Now is the time to commence the recall process to invite these children for their influenza vaccination now – in readiness for mid-May.

Individual Practice information with patient details has been emailed to practices individually (the password is NIR) and it can also be located in your practice Mōhio report as below.

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------|-----------------|
| Eligible Childhood Flu Report | 6/05/2021 3:36:57 a.m. | Download |
| Flu Vaccine Daily Report | 6/05/2021 3:30:07 a.m. | Download |
| Gout Report | 1/05/2021 3:09:57 a.m. | Download |
| Health Targets - Patient List | 6/05/2021 3:32:35 p.m. | Download |
| HepC_Patient_List | 19/12/2018 3:47:18 a.m. | Download |
| MMR Vaccination | 6/05/2021 3:33:00 a.m. | Download |

Fluad Quad vaccine

A reminder that Fluad Quad MUST NOT be given to a person under 65 years as it is approved by Medsafe only for people aged 65+ years. Please refer to the Medsafe website <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/safety/Alerts/FluadQuad.asp>.

The reason it is not approved for use in New Zealand in people aged under 65 years is because Medsafe has not evaluated the safety data for this group

Afluria Quad, Influvac Tetra and Afluria Quad Junior

Vaccine supplier Seqirus has confirmed that the vaccines for people aged under 65 are on track to be available for the programme start date of 17 May for this age group – however, if you have stock and the claiming option is on your PMS, you can commence vaccinating this age group.

Influenza 2021 information is available in the FLU 2021 Handbook and is available [here](https://www.influenza.org.nz/).

Vaccine returns

Vaccine supplier Seqirus has agreed to increase the return allowances for the 2021 season and will accept the following returns for a refund at the end of the 2021 season:

- Flud Quad (for 65 years and over) – one box of 10 doses
- Afluria Quad (for 5 -64 years) – one box of 10 doses
- Influvac Tetra (for 3- and 4-year-olds) – 5 doses
- Afluria Quad Junior (for 3-35 months) – 5 doses.

Minimum order quantities

Seqirus recognises the complexity of the 2021 season with multiple vaccines and has agreed to reduce the minimum order quantity for Flud Quad from 60 doses to 30 doses until other vaccines are dispatched. This is to allow providers to complete all their vaccinations of patients 65+ years as quickly as possible without incurring charges for small deliveries.

Ordering of Afluria Quad, Influvac Tetra® and Afluria® Quad Junior opened on 27th April. The stock will start being dispatched from 10th May, and the minimum order quantity will revert to 60 doses at that time.

Patient Information and Resources

Flu vaccination is now available **FREE** for anyone 65 or older.

Flu vaccine is also **FREE** for pregnant women (any trimester), people with certain chronic conditions, and young children aged 4 years or under with a history of severe respiratory illness (or are hospitalised for respiratory illness).

For those who are under 65, vaccination will be available from 17 May 2021 (charges may apply).

For full details of eligibility criteria, see [here](#). For more information, see [here](#).

Resources: For translated 'Free flu immunisation for people 65 years+' **posters** to promote to your Communities (English, Arabic, Burmese, Hindi, Japanese, Korean, Simplified Chinese, Spanish, note Punjabi and Portuguese will be uploaded soon) see [here](#)

Also available 'Treasure our Whanau' posters in English, Arabic, Burmese, Chinese, Filipino, Hindi, Korean and Urdu, please see [here](#)

See **videos** featuring Doctors/GP's covering five important questions about the flu shots in [Mandarin](#), [Korean](#) and [Hindi](#) (click on the language)

Flu and COVID-19 vaccination:

- You can have your annual flu shot and your COVID-19 vaccination, but not at the same time.
- Get your COVID-19 vaccination first if you have an appointment booked for it.
- If you do not have an appointment booked for a COVID-19 vaccination, get your flu shot first.
- Leave a gap of two weeks between the COVID-19 vaccine and flu vaccine. Please note that whilst a two-week gap between flu and COVID vaccines is recommended there are no clinical safety concerns should the gap between vaccines be less than two weeks.

COVID-19 Vaccination

COVID Vaccination Update

1. Call for COVID-19 vaccine champions/influencers:

The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is looking for individuals in the community that are willing to share their vaccine journey publicly. Preferably well-known individuals that can be perceived as role models in their community. If you or someone you know can help, please get in touch with Rizwaana (Riz) Latiff, Senior Communications Advisor – Engagement COVID-19 Group for more information. Riz's email is Rizwaana.latiff@health.govt.nz

2. The Federation of Islamic Associations of New Zealand (FIANZ) has published letter regarding getting the COVID vaccine during the month of Ramadhan. Please see attached [letter](#) from Chairman Ulama Board.

3. COVID-19 vaccination journey:

The vaccination patient journey videos have been updated. Please see new links below to these:

- Long version: [here](#)

- Short version: [here](#)

- Quick version: [here](#)

(Subtitles in different languages will be added).

4. COVID-19 vaccine videos: health professionals share some basic information around the COVID-19 vaccination in the following languages (the videos are downloadable): [English](#) (newly added); [Cantonese](#); [Hindi](#); [Korean](#); [Mandarin](#); [Punjabi](#); [Vietnamese](#) (I am sharing these again, please share these videos with your respective community members/groups/stakeholders and social media channels) Arabic, Burmese, Japanese, Khmer, Tagalog and Urdu will be available soon.

5. Updated vaccinator training and processes

You can find the updated vaccinator training and processes in response to COVID-19 on Ministry of Health website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation>

COVID-19 vaccination information available on HealthPathways

[Auckland COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#) contains up to date information and resources on COVID-19 vaccination. This includes: The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) vaccinator training link for general practitioners, the updated advice from IMAC for vaccination in pregnancy and breast-feeding, a link to the Ministry of Health website for those applying for an early vaccine for travel, and an interactive tool to indicate when someone will be vaccinated.

Also included are links to the Australasian Society of Clinical Immunology and Allergy (ASCIA) website for allergy and immunodeficiency-related advice, the Haematology Society position statement and the COVID-19 vaccination rollout for [Northland and Auckland information page](#).

Protecting against measles during the COVID-19 roll-out

As the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out builds, it provides opportunities to check in with people that they are up to date with other vaccines too. As we have experienced, it can be a challenge to vaccinate 15-30-year-olds, and you are encouraged to make the most of any touchpoints you have with this cohort and check if they have been immunised against measles vaccinate them at that encounter (if appropriate).

While our border settings provide some protection from measles, a number of countries are experiencing measles outbreaks. This makes our large group of unimmunised teenagers and young adults vulnerable as travel restrictions ease.

Updated advice on gap between MMR and COVID-19 vaccines

Please continue to allow a four-week gap when giving the MMR vaccine **before** the COVID-19 vaccine where possible.

However, the gap only needs to be two weeks when giving the MMR vaccine **after** the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.

Continue to allow a two-week gap between the COVID-19 vaccine and influenza vaccine, or any other non-live vaccine such as Tdap, where possible, regardless of the order they're given.

Refer to this [flowchart](#) for a reminder of the COVID-19 groupings and when to give the MMR and influenza vaccines.

Why we leave a gap between COVID-19 and MMR/flu vaccines

Having a gap between the different types of vaccinations makes it easier to judge which vaccine may be responsible for any side effects. Note that there are no clinical safety concerns should the gap between vaccines be less than the recommendations above. Do not delay vaccination if such a gap is not possible. It is more important not to delay vaccines than to enforce the gap where it isn't feasible.

The MMR and influenza vaccines can be given at the same time.

Webinar

The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) free webinars

IMAC are running free webinars on topics related to COVID-19 vaccines:

- 11 May – Vaccination administration: Review of current practice and opportunity for questions
- 20 May – COVID-19 vaccination and pregnancy and mammograms

[View webinars](#)

Webinar – COVID-19 vaccines

Dr Nikki Turner, Director of the Immunisation Advisory Centre discusses the COVID-19 vaccines – how they work and the New Zealand strategy in the upcoming year.

[View webinar](#)