

IMMUNISATION FAST FACTS



1 JUNE 2021

In this issue:

- Influenza Vaccine (Influenza vaccine – out of stock, administration of influenza vaccine and other vaccines)
- COVID Vaccine (**Webinar tonight**, COVID Vaccine operating guidelines v.11, Comirnaty (Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine) storage conditions updated,)
- SMILE Resources – Distribution and Survey

Influenza Vaccine

The influenza vaccination season has been in progress for well over a month for people over 65 years. There has been a push for these people to be vaccinated early so there is plenty of time between the influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations. We appreciate your efforts to 'go hard and go early' to vaccinate this cohort.

We have asked Mōhio to provide us with an influenza vaccination report by practice and ethnicity for the 65+ cohort. Your progress report as of 17 May 2021 was emailed to you last week. The data presented is extracted from the NIR, therefore, it includes your patients who received their influenza vaccination elsewhere (pharmacy or another Practice) and this counts towards your numerator/coverage.

This week, the influenza vaccination report will be loaded onto your Mōhio practice report so the team can track progress. The goal is 75% across all ethnicities.

Auckland PHO Influenza Vaccination in 65+ years – Progress to 17 May 2021

Total population	48%
Māori	48.46%
Pacific	40.55%
Asian	47.20%

Note that this data does not include 2 Profile for Mac Practices in the Auckland PHO Network

Influenza Vaccine – out of stock

In the North Island, FLUAD[®]QUAD is out of stock. **North Island providers now need to order AFLURIA[®] QUAD for adults aged 65 years or older.**

AFLURIA QUAD

- Approved for use in children aged 5 years or older and adults.
- 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 practices/pharmacy/occupational health) at a cost.

[Resources webpage](#) where you can download the **Everything you need to know about INFLUENZA** handbook and some programme resources, order programme resources, and link to HealthEd for immunisation related resources.

Administration of Influenza Vaccine and Other Vaccines

Spacing of influenza vaccination and the COVID-19 vaccine (COMIRNATY™)

In view of the absence of data on concomitant delivery, and to minimise confusion with any associated reactions, a gap of two weeks is generally recommended between giving mRNA-CV after any other vaccine.

However, based on first principles of how these vaccines work, adverse impacts on immunogenicity or safety are unlikely with a shorter gap, so if it is clinically important to deliver in a shorter time, do not delay.

- If it is not practicable to keep a two-week gap between vaccines, then do not delay.
- If a live vaccine has been administered, wait four weeks before giving a COVID-19 vaccine but if not practicable, then do not delay.
- If a COVID-19 vaccine is administered first, then maintain a two-week gap before any other vaccines.

Note: the second mRNA-CV dose is given at least 21 days after the first dose.

Spacing of influenza vaccination and non-COVID-19 vaccines

The influenza vaccine can be administered concurrently with all non-COVID-19 vaccines, including the herpes zoster (shingles) vaccine, pneumococcal vaccines and Tdap, and the National Immunisation Schedule vaccines. Separate syringes and different injection sites should be used.

Co-administration of influenza and pneumococcal vaccines

In one study, children aged 6–23 months were two to three times more likely to develop a fever of 38°C–39°C during the first 24 hours after receiving influenza and PCV13 (PREVENAR13[®]) vaccines at the same visit compared with children who received the vaccines on separate days.

- Around one in 10 adults have an increased risk of experiencing fatigue, headache and/or body aches and pains during the 14 days after receiving influenza and PCV13 vaccines at the same visit.
- Around two in 10 adults have an increased risk of redness or pain at the site of one or both injection sites when receiving influenza and 23PPV (PNEUMOVAX[®]23) vaccines concurrently.
- Separating administration of these vaccines by two days can be offered but is not essential.

Please refer to the Medsafe website www.medsafe.govt.nz for the PREVENAR 13 and PNEUMOVAX 23 data sheets.

ZOSTAVAX and Annual Influenza Vaccination

Along with the annual influenza immunisation for adults aged 65+ years, one funded Zostavax is recommended for adults 65+ to 80 years.

- ZOSTAVAX and influenza vaccine can be administered at the same visit.
- ZOSTAVAX is only given as a single dose – it IS NOT administered every year that an eligible adult receives their influenza vaccination.

Needles sourced by Seqirus to administer AFLURIA QUAD or FLUAD QUAD

The choice of needle gauge and length is based on the vaccinator’s clinical judgment to ensure needle length is appropriate to reach muscle and therefore, vaccinators do not have to use the Seqirus supply. Table 2.8 in the [online Immunisation Handbook 2020](#) provides guidance on the needle gauge and length by site and age – thus:

Age	Site	Needle gauge and length	Rationale
5–6 years	Deltoid	23–25 G x 16 mm	A 16 mm needle should be sufficient to effect deep IM deposition in the deltoid in most children.
7–64 years 65 years or older	Deltoid	23–25 G x 16 mm 23–25 G x 25 mm 21–22 G x 38 mm	Most adolescents and adults will require a 25 mm needle to effect deep IM deposition.
Very large or obese person	Deltoid	21–22 G x 38 mm	Use clinical judgment to ensure needle length is appropriate to reach muscle.

Pregnant Women and Influenza Vaccinations

It is recommended that women who become pregnant after winter and have not received the current influenza vaccination are offered influenza vaccination up to and including 31 December.

There is no minimum interval between an influenza vaccination at the end of 2020 and this year's vaccine.

COVID Vaccine

Webinar TONIGHT reminder

[People in Group 3](#) are getting vaccinated soon. People in this Group include everyone across the rest of Auckland who are over 65 and those aged 16 – 65 years that have relevant underlying health conditions, have a disability or who are pregnant (pregnant women are asked to speak to their health provider).

To find out more, register now for the next COVID-19 Vaccination Update for Primary Care Webinar on 1 June at 7-7.45pm. This will include:

- An update on the COVID-19 vaccination programme.
- Insights from a GP clinic that is now providing COVID-19 vaccinations.

Answers to frequently asked scientific COVID-19 questions, provided by the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC). Register here: [COVID-19 Vaccination Update for Primary Care Webinar - registration](#)

COVID-19 Vaccine Operating Guidelines

The latest version of the – version 11 – is now available on the [MoH website](#).

There's just a few changes in this version, which are:

- Clarified wording around the interval between administering the first and second dose.
- Additional information about what to advise the MoH contact centre if you need to request a new NHI number through them.
- Updated wording to reflect new CIR functionality to record a dose of the Pfizer vaccine administered overseas
- Clarification on contacting IMAC if vials are dropped or you're unsure if the vaccine is viable.

Comirnaty (Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine) storage conditions updated

- Medsafe has received data from Pfizer to vary the storage conditions for their COVID-19 vaccine. This data has been assessed and Medsafe has approved the new conditions for use in New Zealand.
- This change means that the refrigerated (2°C to 8°C) shelf life of an unopened vial of Comirnaty vaccine is extended from 5 days to 31 days.
- Once at 2°C to 8°C, the vial cannot be returned to the freezer and must be disposed of after 31 days or on the vial's expiration date (whichever happens first).
- This change will take effect immediately for any vaccine that DHBs or vaccination clinics have in stock, unless the vial's expiry date has passed. Vaccine dispatched from Wednesday 2 June will include updated labelling to reflect the new storage conditions.
- The vaccine still needs to be kept at ultra-low temperatures (-90°C to -60°C) in the longer term, for up to six months.
- Further information about the approved storage conditions for the Pfizer (Comirnaty) vaccine can be found in the [New Zealand data sheet here](#).

[COVID-19 vaccine resources webpage](#) with links to PDF files of the COVID-19 resources included in provider Influenza Immunisation Programme information packs, and the websites other resources can be downloaded from.

Pfizer have updated their vaccine label, and the new version will be used on vaccines delivered from , Thursday, May 27. The white over-labels have also been updated.

Attached is a reference document with examples of the three labels (5 pack, 15 pack, 195 tray) and the corresponding over-label; and the key differences are summarised in the table below:

	Pfizer Label	White over-label
5 Pack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine is called Comirnaty (rather than Pfizer) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pfizer Lot printed on the over-label (not Pfizer label)
15 Pack	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine called Comirnaty 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pfizer Lot printed on the over-label
195 Tray	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccine called Comirnaty Additional storage conditions have been included for -70C and -20C 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pfizer Lot printed on the over-label Temperature storage information for 195 tray included

The team at IMAC have now posted a short education video on how to reconstitute and draw up the COVID-19 vaccine. It provides a clear, practical view of the process, and does give a sense of why it takes a bit longer to prepare this vaccine. It also mentions the 6 dose/7 dose volume.

This will be a helpful resource for new staff coming on-stream and a useful revision for those already underway. <https://covid.immune.org.nz/resources/video/preparing-pfizerbiontech-comirnaty-vaccine>

[Primary Care Covid-19 Vaccination Sites.pdf](#) [498.9 KB]

Please send feedback to Leanne.Kirton@waitematadhb.govt.nz

SMILE Resources –Distribution and Survey

You should have now received a supply of the mid-pregnancy resource **SMILE information**, from the DHB. This information informs a hapū wāhine (pregnant woman) about things she can do to keep herself healthy in pregnancy. In addition to leaflets that have been supplied in the past, there are also revised antenatal immunisation reminder cards for ‘flu and Boostrix immunisations. These resources are also available electronically at www.pregnancysmile.nz, including translations of the leaflets into Te Reo Māori, Samoan and Tongan. If you require more resources, please contact georgina.tucker@waitematadhb.govt.nz

Auckland and Waitematā DHBs would love to get some feedback from you about this resource. Please complete the online survey at <https://se.buzzchannelgroup.com/?u=51c86862ebb348249570104cea452c8f> – the survey has been extended to 18 June 2021 and will help shape further resources.

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