



Australian Government

Department of Health

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

2016 Seasonal Influenza Vaccine – Update

Dear Colleague

Last month I provided early advice for vaccination providers on the National Immunisation Program (NIP) 2016 influenza vaccines. In my letter, I advised that two quadrivalent influenza vaccines (QIVs) would be available free of charge to eligible people under the NIP from April 2016.

I am now writing to provide further details on the 2016 NIP influenza vaccines, as well as resources for your practice or clinic. I have enclosed:

- A fact sheet for vaccination providers with information on eligibility to receive the free NIP influenza vaccine; vaccine composition; influenza vaccination for children; co-administration of influenza vaccines with other vaccines; and how to report adverse events.
- Two posters for your practice or clinic – a generic poster and one specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.
- A vaccine fridge sticker and a flyer highlighting the age specificity of the two vaccines.

Please note that the two QIVs provided under the NIP are age-specific. **Before administering a flu shot, CHECK you have the correct vaccine for the person's age.**

Vaccine delivery

Your state or territory health department will deliver 2016 NIP influenza vaccines from mid-April 2016, subject to local arrangements. You will need to place an order through your state or territory contacts. You can administer the vaccine to eligible people as soon as it is available to you.

Find out more

The Immunise Australia website (www.immunise.health.gov.au) provides further information and resources. Other resources include consumer fact sheets, with one specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) advice for vaccination providers regarding the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2016 is also available on the Immunise Australia website. It provides further details on the seasonal vaccines registered by the Therapeutic Goods Administration in 2016, vaccine composition, doses, recommendations for usage, and advice on the administration of QIVs vs trivalent influenza vaccines. For 2016, ATAGI has produced a consumers' statement which is available on the Immunise Australia website.

Please share my letter and fact sheet with others in your practice, including locums, who administer or prescribe vaccines.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christopher J. Baggoley'.

Professor Chris Baggoley

6 April 2016