



Oifig Náisiúnta Imdhíonta
Aonaid 8/9 Páirc Gnó Shráid an Mhainéir
Sráid an Mhainéir
Baile Átha Cliath 7, D07 X320

HSE National Immunisation Office
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Dear Sir/Madam,

08th Sept 2022

Influenza Vaccination Programme 2022/23

Annual influenza (flu) vaccination is strongly recommended for those aged 65 and older, those at risk and children aged 2-17 years and for it to be administered in early in the season.

Vaccine Available

The 2022/2023 HSE seasonal vaccination programme will offer:

- Quadrivalent **live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)**, nasal application for those aged 2-17 years. Brand available:
 - Fluenz Tetra nasal spray suspension Influenza vaccine (live attenuated, nasal) manufactured by AstraZeneca AB
- Inactivated **quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV)** available for all other eligible populations including those aged 2-17 with contraindications to LAIV (QIV is licensed for those 6 months of age and older). Two brands of injectable vaccine will be distributed and are interchangeable where two doses are required:
 - Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (split virion, inactivated) manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur
 - Influvac Tetra marketed by Mylan

Eligible Groups for 2022/23 HSE Influenza vaccination programme

The following groups are eligible to receive the flu vaccine through the HSE programme. People who:

- are 65 years of age and over
- are a child aged 2 to 17 years
- are pregnant
- all those aged 6-23 months and 18-64 years at increased risk of influenza- related complications such as:
 - Those with chronic illness, e.g. chronic heart disease (including acute coronary syndrome), chronic liver disease, chronic neurological disease (where the neurological condition compromises clearance of respiratory secretions), chronic renal failure, chronic respiratory disease (including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, moderate or severe asthma, and bronchopulmonary dysplasia), diabetes mellitus, or haemoglobinopathies
 - Those with immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including asplenia or hyposplenism, and all cancer patients
 - Those with any condition that can compromise respiratory function (e.g. spinal cord injury, seizure disorder, or other neuromuscular disorder,) especially those attending special schools/ day centres
 - Children and adults with Down syndrome
 - Children with moderate to severe neurodevelopmental disorders such as cerebral palsy and intellectual disability
 - Those with morbid obesity (Body mass index >40)
- Residents of nursing homes, old people's homes, and other long stay facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection
- Healthcare workers
- Household contacts of people with underlying chronic health condition or Down syndrome
- Out-of-home care givers for people who have an underlying chronic health condition or have Down syndrome. A carer is someone who provides ongoing significant level of care to a person who is in need of care in the home due to illness or disability or frailty.
- People in regular contact with pigs, poultry or waterfowl

Role of the HSE Mobile Vaccination Teams

The key change for 2022/23 season is for all residents of HIQA registered Nursing Homes and all housebound patients – from 3rd October 2022 HSE mobile vaccination teams will offer the flu vaccine to this cohort. **The HSE COVID-19 vaccination teams will be ordering the flu vaccine required for this activity.** The HSE teams will be in contact to arrange their visit. Nursing home are therefore advised not to order flu vaccines for their residents from NCCS.

If you have any influenza vaccines in your fridge from the previous season please ensure they are removed from your fridge.

Just for information ordering for flu vaccines will open on 12th September from the HSE National Cold Chain Service (NCCS) using the online ordering system www.ordervaccines.ie. Flu vaccine deliveries will commence on 19th September 2022 with all sites receiving first deliveries by 30th September 2022.



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Key Resources

The following key resources are available:

- Visit www.hse.ie/flu for patient information material and to download HSE flu campaign resources (including leaflets and posters).
- Information for healthcare professionals is available on www.immunisation.ie
- E-learning modules on LAIV and QIV are available on www.hseland.ie.

Immunisation system for flu vaccinations

The HSE vaccination programme will use the ICT system for COVID-19 vaccinations COVAX for capturing immunisation records for flu, as well as PPV23 vaccines.

All HSE flu vaccinations (including vaccination of healthcare workers or patients in all facilities both HSE and private) must be captured on COVAX.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Lucy Jessop
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