



# FLU SEASON 2022-23

SEASONAL BULLETIN #1  
PRODUCED BY THE NATIONAL FLU STEERING GROUP

## IMPORTANT DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

**3 OCTOBER 2022 – NATIONAL FLU VACCINATION CAMPAIGN BEGAN**

**17 OCTOBER 2022- FOCUSED CAMPAIGN FOR CHILDREN’S FLU VACCINE**

Flu vaccines can be ordered by vaccination sites at the HSE National Cold Chain Service (NCCS) using the online ordering system [ordervaccines.ie](http://ordervaccines.ie), where your calendar is available, indicating order dates and delivery dates.

## ACTIVITY UPDATE

Weekly influenza surveillance reports are published on the HPSC website throughout the influenza season: <https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/influenza/seasonalinfluenza/surveillance/influenzasurveillancereports/20222023season/>

## ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR FREE VACCINATION

In this Flu season, in order to reduce the risk to those people considered most at risk from Influenza infection, and to minimise spread to those people, the following groups are recommended to receive a Flu vaccine this season. It is expected that both Influenza and COVID-19 will be circulating in the community this winter, and we know from [research conducted early in the pandemic](#), when both viruses were in circulation, that people who were infected with both Influenza and COVID-19 were around twice as likely to die as people who were only infected with COVID-19. The co-circulation of these viruses is another reason why people in the risk groups below should receive their Flu vaccine as early in the season as possible, as well as receiving any COVID-19 vaccination that they may be eligible for. For those people in the risk groups detailed below, the Flu vaccination and accompanying consultation are provided by the HSE free of charge.

People aged 65 and older	Children aged 2-17 years
People (adults and children) with long term medical conditions	People who live in the same house as someone who is at risk because of a medical condition
People with cancer	People on long-term aspirin treatment
People whose immune system is impaired due to disease or treatment	Residents of nursing homes and other long-stay institutions
People with Down Syndrome	Pregnant Women
Healthcare workers	Carers
People who are obese who have a body mass index (BMI) of over 40	People with regular close contact with poultry, water fowl or pigs.

## VACCINES 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

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## KEY OPERATIONAL CHANGE FOR 2022-23 FLU SEASON

From 3<sup>rd</sup> October 2022 HSE mobile vaccination teams are offering the flu vaccine to all residents of HIQA registered Nursing Homes and all housebound patients. The HSE COVID-19 vaccination teams will be ordering the flu vaccine required for this cohort.

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## ICT UPDATE FOR 2022-23 FLU SEASON

This flu season (2022/23) all HSE and Section 38 organisations administering the flu vaccine should be using COVAX (the ICT system for COVID-19 vaccinations) to capture vaccination records for Flu. Primary care settings are using GP patient management systems, GPVax or PharmaVax to send vaccination records on flu into COVAX.

Section 39 settings and other healthcare organisations who are administering the HSE flu vaccine may not have access to COVAX currently. If your organisation does not have access to COVAX but is administering the flu vaccine please email us at [immunisation@hse.ie](mailto:immunisation@hse.ie). We are working on an ICT solution to enable you to transfer flu vaccination records onto COVAX. In the meantime sites administering the flu vaccine can consider using the consent form available here: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/fluinfo/>

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## FLU WEBSITE UPDATE

All eligible groups can get the free HSE flu vaccine from their local participating GP or pharmacy.

Over 2500 GPs and pharmacies are offering the free flu vaccine this season.

You can now find a local pharmacy offering the HSE free flu vaccine here:

<https://www2.hse.ie/conditions/flu/pharmacies-flu/>