



Recommended Groups for Influenza vaccination

The HSE Influenza vaccine is only available free of charge to:

- People 65 years of age and over (recommended aQIV)
- Children aged 2 to 17 years (recommended LAIV)
- Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy (recommended QIV)
- all those aged 6-23 months and 18-64 years at increased risk of influenza- related complications such as (recommended QIV):
 - Those with chronic illness:
 - 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
 - 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
 - Children on long-term aspirin therapy (because of the risk of Reye • syndrome) •
 - 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 on-going 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

Only if people are in the recommended group for vaccination can they get the flu vaccine and the consultation with their GP or pharmacist for free.

Household contacts of people aged 65 years and older (who do not also have a chronic health condition), pregnant women, children aged 2-17 years or of healthcare workers or carers are **NOT** recommended the influenza vaccine.

Those who are not eligible for HSE influenza vaccines can consider getting vaccinated but they have to source influenza vaccine privately. The HSE is not involved in the procurement or distribution of private stock.

More information www.hse.ie/flu