



Section B: Information Specific to Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives for the administration of the Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) Fluenz Nasal Spray to children between 2-17 years of age for the 2025/2026 influenza season

Statutory Instruments No. 245 of 2021 and 422 of 2023 identify health care professionals (including registered nurses and registered midwives) that can administer Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) Fluenz Nasal Spray to children between 2-17 years of age for the 2025/2026 influenza season.

In order to administer the vaccine, registered nurses and registered midwives must be familiar with the medicine protocol for the administration of the LAIV Fluenz Nasal Spray. Registered nurses and registered midwives must also have completed the Self-Assessment of Competency Form included in this section. The medicine protocol and the Self-Assessment of Competency Form are available at www.immunisation.ie

Registered nurses and registered midwives must have attained the professional qualifications, training and competence requirements as listed below in order to be eligible to administer LAIV Fluenz Nasal Spray using the HSE master medicine protocol for this vaccine.

TABLE 1 Professional Qualifications, Training, Experience and Competence Required

Professional qualifications, training, experience and competence required prior to using medicine protocol	<p>The registered nurse or registered midwife must have completed all of the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">1. Be a Registered Nurse or Registered Midwife, on the active register maintained by the NMBI2. An approved <i>Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers Course</i> within the last two years (i.e. Irish Heart Foundation (IHF))3. Initial <i>National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals</i> accessible on www.HSeLanD.ie followed by a two hour classroom based skills workshop. Recertification is required every two years by completing the on-line <i>National Anaphylaxis Education Programme for Health Care Professionals</i> accessible on: www.HSeLanD.ie4. National Vaccination Education Programme for Registered Nurses/Midwives/Public Health Nurses accessible on: www.HSeLanD.ie5. Self-Assessment of Competency Form for LAIV Fluenz Nasal Spray (included in this Section B document) accessible on: https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/fluinfo/6. National Immunisation Office two e-Learning modules for LAIV. Both are accessible on www.HSeLanD.ie7. National Immunisation Information System (NIIS) online training programme available at www.HSeLanD.ie8. Storing and Managing Vaccines, available at www.HSeLanD.ie <p>Recommended</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none">9. <i>Children having vaccinations and healthcare procedures</i>: (Professor Lucy Bray ONMSD 2023, available at www.HSeLanD.ie10. <i>Talking about Immunisation</i>, available at www.HSeLanD.ie11. <i>LAIV information leaflet for parents</i> available at https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/pubinfo/flu-vaccination/information/information-%20material.html
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Supporting Documents for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives

An Bord Altranais (2007) Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management

HSE COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (2025) Operational Guidance (Note: This guidance document covers 2025/2026 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme), available on sharefile and by emailing covid.and@hse.ie

HSE COVID-19 Vaccination Programme (2025) Operational Guidance LAIV in School Setting version 3.0 available on sharefile and by emailing covid.and@hse.ie

National Clinical Guideline No. 30 (2023) – Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) available at: <https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a057e-infection-prevention-and-control-ipc/>.

National Immunisation Advisory Committee (2023) *Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland Anaphylaxis Chapter: Immediate Management in the Community*. Available at: https://www.higa.ie/sites/default/files/NIAC/Immunisation_Guidelines/Anaphylaxis.pdf

National Immunisation Advisory Committee *Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland /Chapter 11* Dublin: Health Information Quality Authority Online update available at: https://www.higa.ie/sites/default/files/NIAC/Immunisation_Guidelines/Chapter_11_Influenza.pdf

National Immunisation Office (2024) *HSE Guidelines for maintaining the vaccine cold chain including maintenance of vaccine fridges and management of vaccines* available at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/vaccineordering/sopnio01fridge.pdf>

National Immunisation Office (2024) *HSE Guidelines for maintaining the vaccine cold chain in vaccine cool boxes*. Available at www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/vaccineordering/sopnio02box.pdf

National Immunisation Office (2025) *Toolkit to Support the Administration of Fluenz nasal spray suspension to Primary School Children in the School Setting winter vaccination programme 2025-2026*. Dublin: Health Service Executive

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2025) *Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives incorporating the Scope of Practice and Professional Guidance* available at: <https://www.nmbi.ie/NMBI/media/NMBI/NMBI-Code-of-Professional-Conduct-and-Ethics.pdf?ext=.pdf>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2020) *Guidance for Registered Nurses and Midwives on Medication Administration*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <https://www.nmbi.ie/NMBI/media/NMBI/NMBI-Medication-Administration-2020.pdf?ext=.pdf>

Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland (2022) *Practice Standards for Midwives*. Dublin: Nursing and Midwifery Board of Ireland available at: <http://www.nmbi.ie/Standards-Guidance/Midwives-Standards>

Self-Assessment of Competency to Administer Live Attenuated Influenza Vaccine (LAIV) Fluenz Nasal Spray under Master Medicine Protocol (to be completed by registered nurse/registered midwife prior to administering vaccine)

Performance Criteria		(Tick/date/initial as applicable)		
No	Critical Element	Competent Date/Initials	Needs Practice Date/Initials	Needs Theory Date/Initials
1	I practice within my scope of practice (NMBI, 2025) to undertake administration of LAIV			
2	I understand that vaccines are prescription only medicines (POM) and prior to administration require either: 1. a valid prescription for individual vaccines or 2. a medicine protocol for individual vaccines			
3	I understand the role and function of medicine protocols in the context of NMBI and NIAC guidelines in relation to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Code of Professional Conduct and Ethics for Registered Nurses and Registered Midwives incorporating the Scope of Practice and Professional Guidance (NMBI, 2025) Guidance for Registered Nurses and Midwives on Medication Administration (NMBI, 2020) Guidance to Nurses and Midwives on Medication Management (NMBI, 2020) National Immunisation Advisory Committee Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland (HIQA) 			
4	I have successfully completed the National Immunisation Office (NIO) two e-learning modules on LAIV available at www.HSEland.ie I understand that I will need to regularly review the most current vaccination information from the NIO available at: www.immunisation.ie			
5	I understand the documentation required to support implementation of the medicine protocol to ensure safe administration of LAIV			
6	I understand the current medicine protocol for this vaccination programme			
7	I am aware of the inclusion/exclusion criteria for children receiving LAIV under this medicine protocol			
8	I am competent in safe intranasal vaccine administration technique			
9	I understand if further education and training is required to deem myself competent in intranasal vaccine technique, preparation of vaccines under medicine protocol utilising Antimicrobial Resistance and Infection Control (AMRIC) aseptic technique, I am required to access an education/training programme in a Centre for Nurse and Midwifery Education and /or HSEland. I understand that I must discuss my individual learning needs with my line manager			
10	I have successfully completed all the education programmes as listed in Table 1: Professional Qualifications, Training, Experience and Competence Required			
11	I have attended an approved Basic Life Support for Health Care Providers Course within the last two years (i.e. Irish Heart Foundation (IHF))			
12	I have successfully completed an approved anaphylaxis programme as listed in Table 1 and am familiar with NIAC (2023) <i>Anaphylaxis: Immediate Management in the Community</i>			

13	I have the appropriate skills and knowledge to assess children's suitability for vaccination, which includes a clinical assessment of children, presenting for vaccination within the scope of the medicine protocol			
14	I have the knowledge and skills to effectively communicate with the child and parent/legal guardian and use play and distraction during this procedure			
15	I understand when and how to refer those children who meet the exclusion criteria to the relevant medical practitioner for an individual medical assessment as per medicine protocol			
16	I can provide written and verbal information in relevant language and advice to the child, parent/legal guardian to support the individual to make an informed consent available at: https://www2.healthservice.hse.ie/files/132/			
17	I understand the agreed process, including ICT systems if applicable for the accurate and appropriate documentation in the child's record for vaccine administration			
18	I understand the purpose and importance of completing the required HSE data returns following vaccine administration			
19	I have the knowledge and skills to safely administer the vaccine regarding the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparation of the vaccine for administration • Documentation of the details of the vaccine to include the vaccine label which has the batch number and expiry date details • Date and time and site of administration of vaccine • Vaccinator ID (name, signature and NMBI PIN) 			
20	I can discuss the benefits of this vaccine for children and potential side effects to the child, parent/legal guardian			
21	I have knowledge of the appropriate documentation procedure for treatment and reporting of adverse drug reactions to the Health Products Regulatory Authority (HPRA) if required available at: www.hpra.ie			
22	I can demonstrate the procedure for reporting and documentation of medication errors/near misses as per HSE Enterprise Risk Management Policy & Procedures (2023)			
23	I understand how to dispose of single use equipment and sharps in accordance with National Clinical Guideline No. 30 (2023) - Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) available at: https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/a057e-infection-prevention-and-control-ipc/			
24	In the event of needle stick injury, I understand the guidelines as outlined in the 'EMI Tool Kit' available at: https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/EMIToolkit/			
25	I understand how to manage vaccines (including: vaccine handling, delivery and storage including the maintenance of the cold chain in accordance with national and local policies, procedures, protocols and guidelines			
26	I have undertaken the following mandatory online programmes: <p>AMRIC Hand Hygiene</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AMRIC Basics of Infection Prevention & Control • AMRIC Personal Protective Equipment • AMRIC Standard & Transmission Based Precautions <p>AMRIC programmes available at: www.HSeLand.ie</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • GDPR Guidelines available at: www.HSeLand.ie 			



	<ul style="list-style-type: none">National Consent Policy available at: https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/who/qid/other-quality-improvement-programmes/consent/national-consent-policy.html			
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I have sufficient theoretical knowledge and skills to administer this intranasal vaccine independently, and I acknowledge my responsibility to maintain my own competence in line with the Scope of Nursing and Midwifery Practice Framework (NMBI, 2025) and current best evidence.

Registered Nurse/Midwife Signature: _____ Date: _____ NMBI PIN: _____

If any deficits in theory and/or clinical practice are identified, the registered nurse/midwife must discuss with relevant Line Manager/Employer and implement appropriate support plan to achieve competency within an agreed time frame.

Support Plan (for use if needed to reach competence outlined)

Action necessary to achieve competence:

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Date to be achieved:

Supporting evidence of measures taken to achieve competence:

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Registered Nurse/Midwife Signature:

Date: _____

Name and title of Line Manager/Clinical Lead: _____

Line Manager/Clinical Lead Signature:

Date: _____