



Oifig Náisiúnta Imdhíonta
Aonaid 8/9 Páirc Gnó Shráid an Mhainéir
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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

Vaccine Ordering

Flu vaccines can be ordered from the HSE National Cold Chain Service (NCCS) using the online ordering system ordervaccines.ie, where your calendar is available, indicating order dates and delivery dates.

Ordering for flu vaccines will open on 12th September as the deliveries will commence on 19th September 2022 with all sites receiving vaccines by 30th September 2022 (once ordered on time). You will receive communication from NCCS when orders are open.

Patient held vaccination record cards will be delivered with the flu vaccine which should be completed and given to your patients after vaccination.



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You can order:

- **Injectable flu vaccines (QIV)** - Up to 100% of your allocation is available.
- **Fluenz Tetra** the nasal flu vaccine for children aged 2-17 years.
 - Deliveries will start 3rd October 2022, with orders opening the previous week.
 - Initial batches will expire **mid December 2022**.

Additional doses of flu will be available to order as your stock depletes. Please only order what you require until your next delivery and plan your clinics according.

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 order flu vaccine for this cohort.

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. A new module on pneumococcal (PPV23) vaccination programme has been developed.

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.

Actions required by you

- ✓ Please remove all influenza vaccines from the 2021/2022 flu season and any other expired vaccines from your fridge today or as soon as possible. Please place them in a box in a secure location and return them to the HSE National Cold Chain Service by giving them to the NCCS van driver when they can take them.
- ✓ Vaccine deliveries will be fortnightly from 19th September once the order has been placed in time as per your calendar, commencing 12th September. Ensure you have adequate pharmaceutical fridge space for arriving vaccines.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Lucy Jessop
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