



### Seasonal influenza vaccine program 2011

In 2011 the seasonal influenza vaccine will include the following strains:

- A/California/7/2009 (H1N1)-like virus;
- A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2)-like virus;
- B/Brisbane/60/2008-like virus.

Seasonal influenza vaccination in 2011 is recommended and **available free** for:

- All individuals  $\geq$  65 years of age
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people  $\geq$  15 years of age
- Individuals  $\geq$  6 months of age with conditions predisposing to severe influenza\*
- Pregnant women\*

\*For further details, please refer to the ninth edition of The Australian Immunisation Handbook, p. 190 – 192.

Seasonal influenza vaccine in 2011 is recommended (**but not available for free**) for:

- Homeless people and those providing care to them
- Close contacts of those at high risk of complications from influenza (staff of nursing homes and long-term care facilities, healthcare providers, household contacts)
- People providing essential services
- People involved in the commercial poultry industry or in culling poultry during confirmed avian influenza activity
- Travellers (large tourist groups, esp. those travelling on cruises during influenza season)

Vaccine Service Providers are asked to record numbers of funded seasonal influenza vaccines administered to 'medical at risk' patients on a tally sheet (provided with your vaccine order).

### Seasonal influenza vaccines for children in 2011

- The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended the use of *Influvac* and *Vaxigrip* for use in children aged from 6 months to less than 5 years.
- *Fluvax* is **not registered** for use in children less than 5 years in 2011.
- For children aged 5 to less than 10 years of age, it is recommended that *Vaxigrip* or *Influvac* is used.
- *Fluvax* may be used in children aged 5 years to less than 10 years when **no alternative vaccine is available**. If *Fluvax* is used in this age group, parents should be informed of the potential increased risk of fever, but that febrile convulsions are rare in this age group.
- *Fluvax*, *Vaxigrip* and *Influvac* can be administered to older children (ie 10 years and older), adolescents and adults.
- The TGA Statement on Seasonal Influenza Vaccines is at [www.tga.gov.au/safety/alerts-medicine-seasonal-flu-110310.htm](http://www.tga.gov.au/safety/alerts-medicine-seasonal-flu-110310.htm).
- A summary table of the ATAGI recommendations is available on page 4

Please report any Adverse Events associated with influenza vaccination in patients of any age as soon as possible using the AEFI report form available at: [www.health.qld.gov.au/immunisation/document/s/adverse\\_event\\_immun.pdf](http://www.health.qld.gov.au/immunisation/document/s/adverse_event_immun.pdf)

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### Rotavirus vaccine and intussusception

There is new evidence from Australian and overseas studies suggesting a small increased risk of intussusception in infants following rotavirus vaccination.

The increased risk appears to occur mainly in the first 1-7 days following the first dose of vaccine.

The Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) has recommended the continued use of rotavirus vaccine for infants under the National Immunisation Program. It has however advised that parents and immunisation providers be informed of the risks associated with this vaccine and intussusception.

#### Key Points

- Inform parents and carers of young infants receiving rotavirus vaccine of the rare risk of intussusception following the vaccine and how to be alert to the signs and symptoms of the condition.
- Do not give rotavirus vaccine outside the recommended age limits.
- Do not give rotavirus vaccine to a baby with a history of intussusception.
- Report any cases of intussusception following rotavirus vaccination through the usual reporting arrangements for adverse events following immunisation in your State and Territory.

Further information can be obtained at <http://www.immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/immunise-rotavirus-intussusception>

### ATAGI recommendations for the use of 2011 Seasonal Trivalent Influenza Vaccines

#### Age group

	≥6 months to 5 years	>5years to < 10 years	> 10 years and older
<i>Fluvax</i>	Do not give	Note 1	Can provide
<i>Influvac</i>	Can provide	Can provide	Can provide
<i>Vaxigrip</i>	Can provide	Can provide	Can provide
<i>Fluarix</i>	Do not give	Do not give	Can provide
<i>Agrippal</i>	Do not give	Do not give	Can provide
<i>Intanza</i>	Do not give	Do not give	Note 2

Note 1: The use of *Influvac* or *Vaxigrip* in children aged 5 years to less than 10 years is strongly preferred, however, *Fluvax* may be used when no timely alternative vaccine is available and parents are informed of the potential increased risk of fever.

Note 2: Do not use in children (*Intanza* is approved for adults aged 18 to 59 years only).

### Cold Chain

Following the summer floods there was a large increase in reports of cold chain breaches to the PHU. The main reasons were flooding to the practice or loss of power following the floods.

The PHU appreciates the efforts VSPs have made to ensure a continuous supply of vaccines during the floods and subsequently. Please continue to report any cold chain difficulties to the Queensland Health immunisation Program on 3328 9888.