

Winter Wellness and Influenza 2024

Influenza is a very contagious infection of the airways. It affects people of all ages but especially vulnerable patients. Annual vaccination is the most important measure to prevent influenza and its complications. Now is the time to protect your patients as all Queenslanders are eligible for the free flu vaccines in 2024.

Things to consider

- Does the practice operate a vaccine clinic or individual appointments?
- Identify patient cohorts using the practice clinical software and [Primary Sense](#).
- Utilise integrated email and SMS systems to invite patients for an appointment

Review systems and processes

- Prepare an anaphylaxis response kit
- Read through current infection control guidelines
- Update risk management procedures: e.g. needle stick injury
- Ensure staff are trained in cold chain, vaccine stock and waste management
- Ensure staff are trained in vaccine administration & documentation

Resources:

[Vaccination for people who have had an adverse event following immunisation](#)

[Reporting an adverse event following immunisation](#)

[Infection prevention and control information](#)

[Cold chain and vaccine management](#)

[How to use the Australian Immunisation Register](#)

Setting up a dedicated vaccine clinic

- Define roles and responsibilities for staff working in the clinic/s
- Consider appropriate booking systems
- Select appropriate lay-out and signage, clinic flow of patient traffic including waiting areas, medical screening and treatment area
- Create patient resources and information and consider non-English-speaking patients
- Ensure practice staff are trained and have demonstrated knowledge in the proper storage, handling and administration of vaccines

Contact Practice Support

www.practicesupport.org.au

practicesupport@brisbanenorthphn.org.au

07 3490 3495

- Schedule staff breaks for well-being

Resources:

[RACGP - Winter Planning Toolkit](#)

[Influenza vaccination information 2024](#)

[Patient resources for influenza vaccination](#)

[Influenza resources in languages other than English](#)

Promotion and awareness

- Update information on the practice website, social media and promote awareness at your practice
- Use electronic platforms or patient management software to invite patients via SMS, email or letter
- Enable the Primary Sense prompts to alert the GP when vulnerable patients due for vaccinations

Resources:

[Influenza prevention posters and brochures](#)

[Primary Sense prompts](#)

Additional Resources

[Brisbane North HealthPathways](#)

[2024 influenza vaccination consumer fact sheet](#)

[National vaccine storage guidelines - Strive for 5, 3rd edition](#)

[NCIRS guide to co-administration of vaccines for adults](#)

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