

Important Provider Information

2010 vaccine schedules

2010 Seasonal influenza vaccine distribution and ordering information

Please find enclosed the new 2010 National Immunisation Program schedules for South Australia. Due to the expansion of the eligible groups for funded influenza vaccine, a separate Annual Influenza Schedule has been developed.

Previous eligible groups

Previously the funded influenza vaccine was available only for those

- 65 years and over
 - Indigenous 50 years and over and indigenous with medical risk factors aged 15-49 years
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New additional eligible groups

From 2010 additional groups eligible to receive funded seasonal influenza vaccine include

- All pregnant women (including those in the first trimester)
 - All indigenous persons from 15 years of age
 - All those from 6 months of age with increased risk of complications from influenza infection as defined in the 9th edition of the Australian Immunisation Handbook page 190 (1.iii).
 - Cardiac disease
 - Chronic respiratory conditions including severe asthma
 - Other chronic illnesses requiring medical follow up or hospitalisation including diabetes
 - Chronic neurological conditions
 - People with impaired immunity
 - Long term aspirin therapy in children.
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How to order vaccine for the new eligible groups

A new vaccine order form is enclosed and should be copied for subsequent use. The form allows you to order for each eligible group. You may place an order every two weeks, so please only order the amount you anticipate you will use over a two week period. To ensure equitable distribution and minimal wastage, all vaccine orders are monitored. If staff responsible for vaccine distribution consider your order to be inappropriate, you may be contacted to discuss reducing your order. This measure allows all providers fair access to vaccine.

Ordering Paediatric seasonal influenza vaccine (children less than 3 yrs)

A small number of children less than 3 years of age with medical risk factors will be eligible for the funded seasonal vaccine. They will require the paediatric formulation. As with all children less than 9 years they will require 2 doses in the first year of receiving the seasonal vaccine and 1 dose in



subsequent years. **Do not** use the Vaccine Order Form to order the paediatric formulation. If you require vaccine for children less than 3 years please ring to discuss with the Immunisation Section on 8226 7177.

When to commence ordering influenza vaccine

You may commence placing orders for influenza vaccine now using the enclosed vaccine order form. Please consider how much vaccine you will need for each group for a two week period.

When you can expect to receive seasonal influenza vaccine

Distribution of influenza vaccine will commence on week beginning 22nd February. This is slightly later than previous years due to a number of issues at the manufacturing level.

Annual Influenza Vaccine Schedule

A separate vaccine schedule detailing eligible groups and dosage requirements for adults and children is enclosed.

H1N1 09 influenza vaccine (Panvax)

The seasonal influenza vaccine contains 3 separate virus strains: A H1N1, A H3N2 and B. The A H1N1 component in the seasonal vaccine is the same strain as the funded pandemic H1N1 available for all individuals. Although the seasonal trivalent vaccine is only funded for certain groups, the H1N1 monovalent vaccine is still funded and available for everyone else. Providers are strongly encouraged to offer the H1N1 to all individuals who may not be receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine.

Dose requirements for children for seasonal influenza vaccine where they have previously received Panvax

The cut off age for two doses of Panvax is 10 years. However the cut off age for two doses of seasonal flu vaccine is 9 years. If children less than 9 years have received either one or two doses of Panvax they still require 2 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine if it is their first year receiving seasonal influenza vaccine.

Further information from the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation on influenza vaccination for children can be found at www.healthemergency.gov.au on the health professionals tab.

2010 Resources

Please find enclosed the:

- National Immunisation Program schedule
- Annual Funded Seasonal Influenza vaccine schedule
- New 2010 Vaccine Order Form also available online at www.dh.sa.gov.au/pehs

Additional schedules can be obtained by contacting the Immunisation Section on 8226 7177.