

26 February 2025

Dear Influenza Vaccination Provider,

Last year collectively you administered 1.16 million doses of Influenza vaccine from April to September 2024, an outstanding achievement. As you will be aware, immunising 95% of tamariki by 2030 is one of the five health target initiatives. Health targets are important as they support Health New Zealand and its partners to focus efforts to provide better health outcomes and improve health services for everyone. Whilst influenza vaccination is not directly linked to the health targets, it is an opportunity to connect with wider whānau on the importance of immunisation, especially those at higher risk; kaumatua, hapū mama and young pēpi.

A reminder as we start seeing the usual winter coughs and colds that a runny nose is NOT a reason to delay childhood immunisations. Whānau should be reassured that in most cases, unless their pēpi/tamariki has a temperature over 38°C or an acute systemic illness, the immunisation can proceed.

We have prepared the following items to support you during the 2025 Influenza vaccine season.

Sector Support items

Flu Portal Reimbursement Scheme

NPHS will once again, reimburse non-Health New Zealand Health and Disability employers up to \$35 + GST for vaccinating their frontline staff via the portal (open from 1 April to 30 September).

Employees must satisfy all the following criteria:

- not be employed by Health New Zealand
- provide a health and/or disability service
- have direct patient/client contact
- are not eligible for a publicly funded influenza vaccine

Further information for employers can be found at tewhatauora.govt.nz/influenza

Collateral

You can access immunisation posters, leaflets, the consent form and post vaccination flyers via the following links:

- Immunisation Dropbox: tinyurl.com/2hsxx62s
- HealthEd: healthed.govt.nz
- Bluestar from the end of March: portal.bluestar.co.nz/login/moh_vaccine

Top-up Initiatives

A provider will receive a co-administration payment if the funded influenza vaccine (Influvac Tetra) is administered at the same time as a funded shingles vaccine or a Boostrix vaccine for a pregnant person. The correct indication code of 'pregnancy' must be entered into the PMS to trigger payment.

If a COVID-19 vaccine is administered at the same visit as a funded Influenza vaccine two separate vaccine administration fees can be claimed.

Clinical Support

The IMAC 2025 Influenza Toolkit contains clinical information, and resources available for vaccinators to order. For an electronic copy of the toolkit visit immune.org.nz

Clinical questions, including about concomitant vaccination (if required) should be directed to IMAC via 0800IMMUNE (0800 466 863), 8.30am to 5.00pm weekdays or email 0800immune@auckland.ac.nz

Influenza Vaccine Eligibility

The eligibility criteria are published on the Pharmac 'Community Schedule' online - Influenza vaccine pharmac.govt.nz and contained in the 'Flu Toolkit' for your convenience.

Book My Vaccine

Providers can sign up to use Book My Vaccine nibs.my.site.com/bmv/SignUpWithEmail

Healthpoint

Consumers are regularly directed to Healthpoint to find local vaccination services so it is important to ensure content is up to date. You can register and sign up for a Healthpoint account at healthpoint.co.nz

All providers with a Healthpoint listing must ensure their information is up to date. Information should include ages able to be vaccinated, group booking opportunities, walk in options and operating hours.

For assistance with editing or signing up please contact info@healthpoint.co.nz

Pertussis Protection

With the current pertussis epidemic in Aotearoa, it is important to take the opportunity to check that everyone, including pregnant people are up to date with their Boostrix (Tdap) vaccination when they present for a flu vaccine. For many New Zealanders, this may be their sole interaction with a healthcare professional throughout the year. Wherever possible, check people are fully protected against measles and arrange vaccination if they are not, as well as check eligibility for the latest COVID-19 vaccine and offer if eligible.

If you are unable to offer other eligible vaccines at the time, ensure consumers know how to access these and support them to book their appointment.

Thank you for your important mahi and support with the 2025 Influenza vaccination campaign.

Please contact immunisation@tewhatuora.govt.nz with any queries.

Ngā mihi

Immunisation Team