



Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health, WA**

**Communicable Disease Control
Directorate**

2009 INFLUENZA AND PNEUMOCOCCAL VACCINE UPDATE FOR IMMUNISATION PROVIDERS

Influenza Vaccine

The Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) is pleased to advise you that the Influenza vaccines for use in this coming season (2009) are now in the WA vaccine distribution centre and ready for distribution.

The 2009 Australian influenza vaccine strains are:

- A (H1N1): an A/Brisbane/59/2007 (H1N1) - like strain
- A (H3N2): an A/Brisbane/10/2007 (H3N2) - like strain
- B: a B/Florida/4/2006 - like strain

There are two influenza vaccines available through the Commonwealth Government-funded program for 2009. These are:

- **CSL - Fluvax®**
- **Sanofi Pasteur - VAXIGRIP®**

Vaccine Ordering

- The funded product will be labelled "Government-funded program";
- Orders can be placed immediately and will be processed in the order that they are received;
- We anticipate that it will take approximately two weeks to process all the initial vaccine orders; hence, we encourage you to order as soon as possible to ensure that you have the vaccine in hand by the 4th March 2009 to meet patients requests;
- The WA Department of Health anticipates conducting a major influenza immunisation promotion campaign on Wednesday 4th March 2009;
- It is recommended to order weekly. I encourage you to not over-order as immunisation fridges will be very full, and to minimise wastage due to cold chain failure;
- **Fax vaccine order forms to CSL on 9227 6196.** For vaccine order enquiries, phone CSL on 9328 7322. The order form is attached;
- Only call CSL if you have not received your order by 10th March 2009;
- Be mindful that you need to maintain vaccine for two distinct cohorts, i.e. children and over-65 year olds.

Grace Vaughan House 227 Stubbs Terrace Shenton Park WA 6008
Letters PO Box 8172 Perth Business Centre Western Australia 6849
Telephone: (08) 9388 4999 Facsimile: (08) 9388 4888 or 9388 4877
ABN 13 993 250 709

Importance of Cold Chain

Due to the large quantities of vaccine being stored in refrigerators, we remind you of the importance of **daily cold chain monitoring and maintenance** to minimise wastage.

Free influenza vaccine is available each year for:

- All individuals \geq 65 years of age or older;
- Indigenous adults in the 50-64 years age group;
- Indigenous adults "At risk" (with a predisposing medical condition) in the 15-49 years age group.

Influenza is also recommended but unfunded for the following groups:

- Persons less than 65 years of age with chronic medical conditions that predispose them to complications of influenza. These vaccines must be prescribed and are subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS);
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people > 15 years of age;
- High risk children (> 6 months of age) with chronic cardiac conditions, chronic suppurative lung disease and chronic illnesses requiring regular hospitalisation and intervention. Two doses of influenza vaccine, at least one month apart, are recommended for children aged 6 months to less than 9 years of age who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time. There is a revised paediatric dosage table (3.9.1 – page 189-194) in Chapter 3.9, "Influenza", 9th Edition, Australian Immunisation Handbook (specific paediatric information has been circulated to immunisation service providers);
- These vaccines must be prescribed and are subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS). This is at the Immunise Australia website – <http://immunise.health.gov.au>
- Caregivers and household contacts of the above high-risk children should also be vaccinated against influenza each year,
- Pregnant women who will be in the second or third trimester during the influenza season, including those in the first trimester at the time of vaccination (page 194 handbook);
- Health care workers and staff of nursing homes and long term facilities should be encouraged to be vaccinated against influenza.

Pneumococcal Vaccine

In addition, the Commonwealth continues to fund pneumococcal vaccine (Pneumovax23®) for the following people:

- Indigenous adults 50 years of age or older, a second dose of Pneumovax23® is recommended 5 years after the first vaccination;

- Indigenous high risk adults 15-49 years of age, a second dose of Pneumovax23® is recommended 5 years after the first, and a third dose of Pneumovax23® is recommended at 50 years of age or 10 years after the second dose, whichever is later;
- Non-Indigenous adults 65 years or older, a second dose of Pneumovax23® is recommended 5 years after the first dose;
- Non-Indigenous high risk adults less than 65 years of age, a second dose of Pneumovax23® is recommended at 65 years of age or 10 years after the first dose, whichever is later; and
- The medically at-risk (those individuals with chronic medical conditions refer to handbook page 191).

More information

- For information on influenza or pneumococcal vaccination, consult the Australian Immunisation Handbook, 9th Edition, 2007, available online at www.immunise.health.gov.au.
- The WA DOH Immunisation Website at www.public.health.wa.gov.au
- Alternatively, contact your local Population Health Unit, or the Central Immunisation Clinic (Phone: 9321 1312).

Yours sincerely



Dr Paul Van Buynder
DIRECTOR
COMMUNICABLE DISEASE CONTROL DIRECTORATE

11th February 2009

Influenza

What is influenza?

Influenza or 'the flu' is a common, highly contagious respiratory viral illness that can cause serious illness and even death in young children, older adults and certain vulnerable people of all ages. It is not the same as the common cold. Influenza is most common in winter months.

How is influenza spread?

Influenza is spread through the air when someone coughs or sneezes or even talks. These actions allow the virus to be spread from person to person via droplets from the nose or throat of an infected person.

What are the symptoms of influenza?

Typical symptoms include sudden onset of fever, headache, sore throat, runny nose, cough, fatigue, and general aches and pains often accompanied by congestion in the nose, throat and lungs. Children may have nausea or vomiting and diarrhoea, but these symptoms are uncommon in adults. Most people recover within a few days, but in more serious infections complications such as pneumonia, inflammation of the heart and or lungs can occur resulting in a much longer illness.

What is the difference between influenza and a 'cold'?

Although the symptoms of influenza and other 'cold' virus infections can be similar especially in children, influenza tends to be more debilitating than the common 'cold' and lasts much longer.

How serious is influenza?

Influenza can be a serious illness for very old people, very young people, or people of any age who have a chronic medical condition e.g. heart, lung, kidney, liver, immune or metabolic (especially diabetes) diseases. Most healthy children and adults only have minor symptoms or 'colds'. Most influenza cases occur in the under 4 year age group or in people over 60 years of age.

Is there a vaccine against influenza?

Yes, influenza vaccine protects people against the influenza infection and the common complications of this infection. Each year a new vaccine containing the 3 most common strains of circulating influenza viruses is produced. The ideal time for children and adults to get vaccinated is well before the winter season starts. Vaccine is available from your local doctor during March/April each year.

Who should be vaccinated against influenza?

Influenza vaccine is recommended and available free to:

- All individuals 65 years of age or older
- Indigenous adults 50 years of age or older
- Indigenous adults 15 - 49 years of age with a predisposing medical condition
- WA children 6 months of age to 4 years.

Influenza is also recommended but unfunded for the following groups:

- People less than 65 years of age with chronic medical conditions that predispose them to complications of influenza.
- Older high risk children (\geq 6 months of age) with chronic cardiac conditions, chronic suppurative lung disease and chronic illnesses requiring regular hospitalisation and intervention. Two doses of influenza vaccine, at least one month apart, are recommended for children aged less than 9 years of age who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time.

These vaccines must be prescribed and are subsidised through the Pharmaceutical Benefits Scheme (PBS).

Parents of children less than 2 years of age with a higher risk of complications should vaccinate their whole family against influenza to reduce their risk of infection. Influenza vaccine is also recommended for pregnant women who will be in their second or third trimester during the influenza 'season', which is usually from May to October.

Is the vaccine safe?

Yes. The most common side effects of influenza vaccination are soreness and redness at the site of injection. These symptoms generally last 1 - 2 days and are reported in 20% of people who receive vaccines. 'Flu-like' symptoms, such as fever, fatigue and muscle soreness are reported in less than 1% of people. These symptoms usually occur within 6 - 12 hours of vaccination and last 1 - 2 days. This is a reaction common to many vaccines; the vaccine itself does not cause Flu.

Immediate allergic reactions occur rarely after Influenza vaccination. These reactions are probably the result of



Who should not have the vaccine?

Influenza vaccination should be postponed if you have an acute illness, especially with a fever. People with severe allergic reactions should not have the vaccination. Your doctor will be able to advise you whether you should receive the vaccine.

Why do some people get 'flu-like' symptoms after influenza vaccination?

The vaccine contains particles of killed viruses, so it cannot cause influenza. Flu like symptoms are more likely to be due to another non-specific infection which lasts 1 - 2 days rather than an effect of the vaccine.

How do people protect themselves from getting influenza?

Influenza is a highly contagious infection, therefore, people need to practice and teach their children routine hygiene behaviours on a day to day basis which will give some protection against getting influenza. Examples are:

- Covering your mouth and nose when coughing or sneezing;
- Chewing with your mouth closed to avoid spraying over other people;
- Using a paper tissue or handkerchief to wipe your nose;
- Washing your hands after blowing your nose and on a regular basis to remove any virus particles picked up on your hands from touching contaminated surfaces;
- Washing your hands before preparing food to prevent transmission of the virus from your contaminated hands into food;
- Observing for signs of illness, fever, runny nose, and cough. If present, remain at home until the fever and runny nose have ceased, to prevent transmission to others;
- Young children, or people with chronic medical conditions should seek advice from their doctor early to prevent complications.
- Avoid meeting with large groups of people if influenza is around in the community or if you have symptoms of influenza.

More information

For more information about influenza or pneumococcal vaccination, contact:

- Your GP
- Your Regional Population Health Unit (see below)

Metropolitan Upper North	9345 7100	Broome	9194 1643	Bunbury	9792 2500
Lower North	9224 1603	Geraldton	9956 1985	Port Hedland	9172 8333
Fremantle	9431 0200	Kalgoorlie	9080 8200	Northam	9622 4320
Albany	9842 7500	Carnarvon	9941 0560		

- The Australian Government's Immunisation Info line: 1800 671 811

Internet

- www.public.health.wa.gov.au
- Australian Government: www.immunise.health.gov.au
- Centers for Disease Control (USA): www.cdc.gov
- Health Protection Agency (UK): www.hpa.org.uk





Government of **Western Australia**
Department of **Health, WA**
Communicable Disease Control Directorate

Your ref	:
Our ref	:
Enquiries	:

Attention GP Surgeries,

Note: Attached is the order form for Vaccines

Previously, requests for specific vaccines (Hepatitis B vaccine for contacts or immunisation catch up programs) were made through the central immunisation clinic or the public health units.

In an attempt to shorten the process and hence delays, please complete the attached Hepatitis B vaccine request form and send direct to Communicable Disease Control Directorate (CDCD) in the metropolitan area, or your regional pharmacy in your regional areas to obtain your vaccine.

CDCD will monitor distribution of vaccines.

Many Thanks,

Dr. Paul Effler
Medical Coordinator, Prevention and Control Program
Communicable Disease Control Directorate

VACCINE ORDER FORM

IMMUNISATION PROVIDERS
FEBRUARY 2009

CSL FAX: 9227 6196
CSL PHONE: 9328 7322

TIME DATE/...../.....



Practice Name:
Practice Number: Practice Phone Number:
Notes:

VACCINE (BRAND NAME) DOSES

Paediatric HepB	(Paediatric H-B-VAX II)	singles or 10 packs		doses
Rotavirus	(Rotarix) (Oral vaccine)	5 packs		doses
DTPa-IPV-HepB-Hib	(Infanrix Hexa)	2,4,6 mths		doses
	10 packs			
Hib	(Hiberix)	12 mths	singles only	doses
DTPa-IPV	(Infanrix-IPV)	4 years	10 packs	doses
7vPCV	(Prevenar)	10 packs		doses
MMR	(Priorix)	10 packs		doses
HPV	(Gardasil)	singles only		doses
Influenza	(Fluvax / Vaxigrip)	10 packs		doses
23vPPV	(Pneumovax)	10 packs		doses

Limit of 10 doses per provider for Men C, Hep A, Varicella

MenC	(NeisVac-C)	(12 months)	10 packs	doses
Hep A	(Vaqta)	(12 months - Indigenous)	singles only	doses
Varicella	(Varilrix)	(18 months)	10 packs	doses

Year 7 School based program vaccines are NOT available to General Practice

Varicella	(Varilrix)	(Year 7-School based program)	10 packs	doses
Adult Hep B	(Adult H-B-VAX II)	(Year 7-School based program)	10 packs	doses
dTPa	(Boostrix/Adacel)	(Year 7-School based program)	10 packs	doses
HPV	Gardasil	(Year 7 School based program)	10 packs	doses

Note: To minimise wastage please order single doses where applicable.

Adult and Child Vaccination Record Cards can be ordered by phoning 1300 135 030 or via www.public.health.wa.gov.au/ordering

Vaccine delivery is free to metropolitan immunisation providers once a week
CSL will charge for additional vaccine deliveries.



Hepatitis B Request Form for Vaccines

TO:	Vaccine Distribution Officer		
FAX:	9388 4820-	PHONE:	9388 4838
NAME: (Requesting Doctor/Nurse)			
SUBJECT:	HEPATITIS B VACCINE FOR NON-IMMUNE CONTACTS OF HEPATITIS CASE Hepatitis B for immunisation catch up program		

Please supply Hepatitis B vaccine doses to the attending doctor as indicated below:

Attending Doctor/Nurse:

Telephone:

Delivery Address:

Postcode:

Hepatitis B Vaccine for contacts of a case: Adult H-B-VAX II x 3 doses to complete course

Number of Doses requested:	Doses			
Contact's Name:				
Contact's date of birth:		/		/

Delivery required by: Date: / / Time: am / pm

Hepatitis B Vaccine: for immunisation catch up program
Paediatric H-B-VAX II x 3 doses to complete the course

Name:							
Contact's date of birth:		/		/			
Delivery required by:	Date:		/	/	Time:		am / pm

Signature of attending doctor/Nurse:

Date: / / Time: am / pm