



Summary of ATAGI recommendations for selection of seasonal influenza vaccine for children aged ≥6 months to <5 years, adults and other risk groups

Updated advice – effective from 30 July 2010

ATAGI has provided detailed advice as to the selection of appropriate influenza vaccine for children under 5 following the detection of an increase in febrile reactions and febrile convulsions in children who received influenza vaccination in February and March 2010. The full ATAGI advice is at www.immunise.health.gov.au. Table 1 below provides a summary for clinician as to the recommended vaccine for each age group. Detailed ATAGI advice ‘Use of pandemic and seasonal influenza vaccines in children <10 years of age’ in Table 2 below is also found at www.healthemergency.gov.au and at DoHA immunization page. This provides detailed information on the number of doses of seasonal influenza vaccination required.

Table 1. Summary For Clinicians - Recommended TIV vaccine for each age group

| SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINE | ≥6 months to <5 years of age | | | 5 years to <65 years | | | | Adults ≥65 |
|----------------------------|--|--|-----------------|--|--|--|---------------------|------------------|
| | Medical condition - at risk of complications | Household contact of at risk children and adults | Healthy child | Medical condition - at risk of complications, including pregnancy* | Household contact of at risk children and adults | Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islanders ≥15 | Healthy child/adult | All |
| Vaxigrip OR Influvac | √ ^{NIP} | √ | √ | √ ^{NIP} | √ | √ ^{NIP} | √ | √ ^{NIP} |
| Fluvax | Not recommended | Not recommended | Not recommended | √ ^{NIP} | √ | √ ^{NIP} | √ | √ ^{NIP} |

^{NIP} Funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP)

*** National Immunisation Program eligibility for seasonal influenza vaccine from 1 January 2010**

- All individuals aged 65 years and over
- All Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples aged 15 years and over;
- Individuals aged 6 months and over with medical conditions predisposing to severe influenza, namely;
 - Cardiac disease, including cyanotic congenital heart disease, coronary artery disease and congestive heart failure
 - Chronic respiratory conditions, including suppurative lung disease, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease and severe asthma
 - Other chronic illnesses requiring regular medical follow up or hospitalisation in the previous year, including diabetes mellitus, chronic metabolic diseases, chronic renal failure, and haemoglobinopathies
 - Chronic neurological conditions that impact on respiratory function, including multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, and seizure disorders
 - Impaired immunity, including HIV, malignancy and chronic steroid use
 - Children aged 6 months to 10 years on long term aspirin therapy
- Pregnant women.



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Table 2. Summary of ATAGI dosage recommendations for seasonal influenza vaccine for children aged ≥6 months to <5 years

| ≥6 months to <10 years of age | Seasonal influenza vaccine doses given in previous years* | Panvax [®] doses given previously | Seasonal influenza vaccine 2010* | Panvax [®] |
|--|---|--|---|---|
| | | | Number of doses | Number of doses |
| Child who will receive seasonal influenza vaccine in 2010 [†] | ≥2 valid doses | 0 doses | 1 dose | Not required [#] |
| | ≥2 valid doses | 1 or 2 doses | 1 dose (≥28 days after 1 dose of Panvax [®] or anytime after 2 doses of Panvax [®]) | Not required |
| | 0 or 1 dose | 0, 1 or 2 doses | 2 doses, separated by ≥28 days (first dose ≥28 days after 1 dose of Panvax [®] and anytime after 2 doses of Panvax [®]) | Not required |
| Child not planning to receive seasonal influenza vaccine in 2010 | 0, 1 or 2 doses | 0 doses | Not applicable | 2 doses, separated by ≥28 days |
| | | 1 dose | Not applicable | 1 dose (≥28 days after 1st dose of Panvax [®]) |
| | | 2 doses | Not applicable | Not required |

Please turn over for reference to footnotes

Children aged 10 years and older and adults require only 1 dose of 2010 seasonal influenza vaccination.



Australian Government

Department of Health and Ageing

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* Two doses of the seasonal influenza vaccine at least 28 days (1 month) apart are recommended for children aged < 10 years who receive influenza vaccine for the first time. If a child ≥ 6 months to < 10 years of age receiving the seasonal influenza vaccine for the first time does not receive the second dose in the same year, two doses are needed the following year.

The 2010 seasonal influenza vaccine contains three strains: the influenza A pandemic (H1N1) strain; an influenza A (H3N2) strain; and an influenza B strain.

Irrespective of the number of doses of pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine received, two doses of the seasonal influenza vaccine are required to achieve an adequate immune response to the influenza A (H3N2) strain and the influenza B component of the seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine unless ≥ 2 valid doses of seasonal vaccine have been received in previous years. Note: doses are considered to be “valid” if they are separated by ≥ 28 days.

† It is recommended that children with medical risk factors receive the seasonal trivalent influenza vaccine and this is provided free under the National Immunisation Program (see ‘Eligibility for free vaccines’ below). Any child without medical risk factors who wishes to be protected against the three influenza strains in the seasonal vaccine can receive it through private purchase.

For most children, no additional doses of pandemic H1N1-containing vaccine are required; this is consistent with the current advice on the use of seasonal influenza vaccine for children aged ≥ 6 months to < 10 years as set out in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* (9th edition). However, for children aged ≥ 6 months to < 10 years who are immunocompromised (due to disease or medical treatment), a second dose of H1N1-containing vaccine (Panvax[®]) may be advisable as it is likely to provide an enhanced immune response in this vulnerable population. This dose can be given ≥ 28 days after the dose of the 2010 seasonal influenza vaccine and is only advised if no previous Panvax[®] has been given.

Dosage and presentation: The dosage of both vaccines is **0.25 mL** for ages ≥ 6 months to < 3 years and **0.5 mL** for ages ≥ 3 years to < 10 years. The seasonal influenza vaccine is available in either 0.5 mL or 0.25 mL (Junior) dosages in pre-filled syringes. Pandemic H1N1 2009 influenza vaccine (Panvax[®]) is available in multi-dose vials for use in the appropriate dosage at all ages, and in pre-filled syringes in 0.25 mL dosage for use in children aged ≥ 6 months to < 3 years.

Eligibility for free vaccines: Seasonal influenza vaccine is funded under the National Immunisation Program (NIP) **only** for children at increased risk of complications from influenza infection as set out in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* (9th edition), pages 190–191. In Western Australia, all children aged < 5 years are eligible for free seasonal influenza vaccine through the Western Australia jurisdictional influenza program. Seasonal influenza vaccine is recommended for all other children aged ≥ 6 months who wish to reduce the risk of contracting seasonal influenza and is available via private prescription. Pandemic H1N1 influenza vaccine is funded for all children and adults through the Australian Government Pandemic H1N1 (2009) Vaccination Program.