

# Influenza Immunisation Program in 2021

## Availability of flu vaccines

Funded flu vaccine availability varies depending on when the vaccine is available for distribution from manufacturers and the Commonwealth Government. When adequate stocks are available in South Australia, funded flu vaccine is distributed to immunisation providers using the established South Australian vaccine distribution system. Privately purchased flu vaccine supplies are arranged by the providers that use them and may be available at a different time to funded flu vaccines.

## Ordering funded flu vaccine

Half of the total government funded flu vaccine ordered by state immunisation providers over the 2020 season was administered in the first four weeks of the program.

Enough government funded vaccine to protect more than 100% of the eligible population was distributed in 2020. SA Health is aware that some providers still have 2020 influenza vaccine stock on hand and this will need to be discarded when it expires in early 2021.

### Recommendations when ordering funded flu vaccine:

- > Ensure you only order and store the amount of vaccines you require for your patients. This helps to ensure all providers can receive the vaccine you need when required.
- > Only order the amount of vaccine you expect to use up until your next scheduled delivery.
- > Non-routine/urgent orders/deliveries are an option if you run out of vaccine, but only after the first two weeks of the program have passed.
- > Reduce the number of vaccines ordered when demand reduces (typically from week 4 of the program onwards).
- > Check who is eligible to receive a funded vaccine and only give it to those persons.

More information on placing orders for 2021 flu vaccines will be available early in the year.

## Flu vaccine and COVID-19

While receiving the flu vaccine will not prevent you from contracting COVID-19 it will help reduce the severity and spread of flu.

Immunisation delivery is an essential service and should continue during the COVID-19 pandemic. Now is the time for immunisation providers to be considering their options for administering flu vaccine effectively, in a safe setting for staff and the community. See the [Maintaining immunisation services during COVID-19](#) fact sheet and the [COVID-19 – Frequently asked questions](#) fact sheet for further information.

## Flu vaccine and aged care facilities

From 1 May 2020 it became a legal requirement to have your annual influenza vaccination in order to visit an aged care facility.

## For more information

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