

What are the side effects?

As with all medicines, there is a possibility of side effects following the Influenza vaccine. Possible side effects include swelling, redness and pain at the injection site, fever, tiredness and muscle aches. These side effects usually commence within a few hours of vaccination, can last for one to two days and resolve without requiring specific treatment.

Talk to your immunisation provider about what to expect or if you are concerned about your child's health following vaccination.

What to do after vaccination?

If your child develops a fever after the Influenza vaccination, give your child paracetamol as directed by the manufacturer's recommendations. Contact your doctor if a high fever persists or if you are concerned. Ensure they drink extra fluids and wear light-weight loose clothing.

If they have an unexpected reaction that you are concerned about please contact your GP or seek medical attention. All serious or unexpected reactions should be reported to the Health Protection Service, Immunisation Unit on (02) 5124 9800.

More information about the program:



Visit: health.act.gov.au/our-services/immunisation

Or contact Health Protection Service, Immunisation Unit on (02) 5124 9800.

For more information about immunisation:

talkingaboutimmunisation.org.au

Acknowledgment of Country

ACT Health Directorate acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of the land, the Ngunnawal people. The Directorate respects their continuing culture and connections to the land and the unique contributions they make to the life of this area. It also acknowledges and welcomes Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples who are part of the community we serve.

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit: www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility

www.health.act.gov.au | Phone: 132281
Publication No 19/0517

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra March 2022

Government Funded Influenza Vaccine for children aged six months to under five years

Influenza Vaccine
Saves Kids Lives



ACT
Government

ACT Health

What is Influenza?

Influenza (commonly known as the 'flu') is a highly contagious respiratory illness caused by the influenza virus. It is spread from person to person by virus-containing respiratory droplets produced during coughing or sneezing.

Influenza can cause serious complications, such as pneumonia and even death, in otherwise healthy people, although the risk is higher for people with underlying medical conditions. The Influenza vaccine reduces the chances of getting Influenza and its potentially serious complications.

The Government funded Childhood Influenza Vaccination Program offers free influenza vaccine for young children aged from six months to under five years. This is not an ACT funded program.

Is my child eligible for the vaccine?

All children in the ACT aged six months to under five years are eligible for the vaccine.

Influenza vaccine is government funded for all children aged from six months to under five years.

Why should I have my child vaccinated?

- Influenza can be fatal, even in healthy children.
- Influenza vaccination can reduce the risk of flu-associated hospitalisation.
- Influenza vaccination may make your child's illness milder if they do get sick with the flu.
- Getting your child vaccinated protects others around them.
- The yearly Influenza vaccine is the best protection against getting the flu.



When can I have my child vaccinated?

From April/May.

It is recommended to have the vaccine in autumn, prior to the Influenza season starting in winter. However, it is never too late to vaccinate against flu.

Where can my child be vaccinated?

From your usual immunisation provider, including your general practitioner (GP) or Early Childhood Immunisation Clinic. Although the vaccine is government funded, you may need to pay a consultation fee to see your GP.

To make an appointment at an Early Childhood Immunisation Clinic, phone Community Health Intake on (02) 5124 9977 between 8am to 5pm Monday to Friday, 8am to 3:30pm Wednesdays (excluding public holidays).

How many vaccines will my child need?

If your child is under 9 years of age, they will need two vaccinations in the first year of vaccination, 4 weeks apart, and one vaccination every year following.