



## COMMUNIQUE FOR QUEENSLAND GPs (#10) 13 April 2010 PANDEMIC (H1N1) 2009 VACCINATION PROGRAM

### **ATAGI – Updated advice**

**ATAGI have issued updated advice on the use of pandemic and seasonal influenza vaccines in children under 10 years of age.**

A summary of this advice is provided in the attached tables.

The document in full can be found can be found at-

<http://www.healthemergency.gov.au/internet/healthemergency/publishing.nsf/content/national-vaccination-program#atagi>

### **Paediatric influenza vaccine**

A small supply of paediatric vaccine is now available for children aged 6 months to under 3 years who meet the criteria for Medical At Risk. When you are placing your order for influenza vaccine please request Fluvax® Junior vaccine with your order.

If you do not have any Fluvax® Junior and need to vaccinate a child aged 6 months to under 3 years, Queensland Health recommends the use a half dose of either Influvac® or Vaxigrip®.

Please see the tables attached to determine whether influenza and/or Panvax® are required for children aged from 6 months up to 10 years.

### **School-based weekend immunisation program**

The response from the community to the school-based weekend immunisation clinics has been extremely encouraging with over 110,000 people vaccinated in the first five weekends. The second round clinics offering dose 2 for children aged six months to ten years as well as vaccination for any individuals who missed the first round, will be offered at selected locations throughout the second half of April and May 2010. Clinics have also been advising people with appropriately aged children that follow up doses are also available from GPs.

Information on the second round clinics is available on the QH website at

<http://www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/html/vacc.asp> or by calling 13 HEALTH (13 432-584).

### **Commonwealth advertising campaign for human swine influenza vaccination**

Beginning on Sunday 21 March 2010, the Commonwealth Government launched a national mass media advertising campaign using major newspapers and radio broadcasts. The campaign highlights the dangers of contracting swine flu and encourages people to urgently get immunised before the event of a second pandemic wave.

Dr Jeannette Young  
Chief Health Officer

13 / 04/10



Queensland  
Government

## Updated ATAGI advice re dosage recommendations for pandemic H1N1 2009 (Panvax®) and 2010 seasonal influenza vaccination for children aged ≥6 months to <3 years

6 months to <u>under</u> 3 years  Dosage 0.25mL	Seasonal influenza vaccine doses given in previous years	Panvax® doses given previously	Seasonal influenza vaccine 2010	Panvax®
			Number of doses (minimum time between influenza and/or Panvax® doses = 28 days)	Number of doses (minimum time between influenza and/or Panvax® doses = 28 days)
Child who will receive seasonal influenza vaccine in 2010†	*2 doses of influenza vaccine in any one year	0 doses	<b>1 dose</b>	Not required#
	*2 doses of influenza vaccine in any one year	1 or 2 doses	<b>1 dose</b>	Not required
	0 or 1 dose	0, 1 or 2 doses	<b>2 doses</b>	Not required
Child <u>not</u> planning to receive seasonal influenza vaccine in 2010	0, 1 or 2 doses	0 doses	Not applicable	<b>2 doses</b>
		1 dose	Not applicable	<b>1 dose</b>
		2 doses	Not applicable	Not required

\*The minimum time between 2 doses of influenza vaccine in any one year is 28 days.

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 “Annual Seasonal Funded Influenza Program” schedule already provided). 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 (Fluvax 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. 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.

## Updated ATAGI advice re dosage recommendations for pandemic H1N1 2009 (Panvax®) and 2010 seasonal influenza vaccination for children aged $\geq 3$ years to $< 10$ years

3 years to <u>under</u> 10 years  Dosage 0.5mL	Seasonal influenza vaccine doses given in previous years	Panvax® doses given previously	Seasonal influenza vaccine 2010	Panvax®
			Number of doses (minimum time between influenza and/or Panvax® doses = 28 days)	Number of doses (minimum time between influenza and/or Panvax® doses = 28 days)
Child who will receive seasonal influenza vaccine in 2010†	*2 doses of influenza vaccine in any one year	0 doses	<b>1 dose</b>	Not required#
	*2 doses of influenza vaccine in any one year	1 or 2 doses	<b>1 dose</b>	Not required
	0 or 1 dose	0, 1 or 2 doses	<b>2 doses</b>	Not required
Child <u>not</u> planning to receive seasonal influenza vaccine in 2010	0, 1 or 2 doses	0 doses	Not applicable	<b>2 doses</b>
		1 dose	Not applicable	<b>1 dose</b>
		2 doses	Not applicable	Not required

\*The minimum time between 2 doses of influenza vaccine in any one year is 28 days

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  $\geq 2$  valid doses of seasonal vaccine have been received in previous years. Note: doses are considered to be "valid" if they are separated by  $\geq 28$  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  $\geq 6$  months to  $< 10$  years as set out in *The Australian Immunisation Handbook* (9th edition). However, for children aged  $\geq 6$  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  $\geq 28$  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  $\geq 6$  months to  $< 3$  years and **0.5 mL** for ages  $\geq 3$  years to  $< 10$  years. The seasonal influenza vaccine is available in either 0.5 mL or 0.25 mL (Fluvax 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  $\geq 6$  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. Seasonal influenza vaccine is recommended for all other children aged  $\geq 6$  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.