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| 2024 Healthcare worker influenza immunisation program – private hospitals |
| Program guidance for private hospitals |
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Vaccination providers should monitor the department’s [seasonal influenza vaccine webpage](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/seasonal-influenza-vaccine) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/seasonal-influenza-vaccine>> for regular updates and clinical guidance regarding Victoria’s 2024 influenza vaccination program.

## Influenza vaccination requirements for healthcare workers

On 8 April 2022, three Secretary Directions were enacted under the *Health Services Act 1988* (Vic) and *Ambulance Services Act 1986* (Vic) requiring Category A and B Healthcare workers (HCWs) in prescribed Victorian health settings to be vaccinated against seasonal influenza by 15 August annually.

The Secretary Directions apply to HCWs who are employed or otherwise engaged by public health services, public hospitals, denominational hospitals, private hospitals and day procedure centres, ambulance services, patient transport services that are engaged centrally or contracted by a health service or Ambulance Victoria and residential aged care services operated by a public hospital, public health service or denominational hospital.

On 6 June 2022, Ministerial Directions were also enacted under the *Mental Health Act 2014* (Vic) requiring Category A and B Forensicare employees to be vaccinated against seasonal influenza by 15 August annually.

**There are no changes to the Secretary and Ministerial Directions in 2024.**

**The whole of health service HCW influenza vaccination target (Category A, B and C HCWs) remains at 94 per cent in 2024.**

**For Category A and B HCWs, health services are to aim for a 100 per cent vaccination rate.** This reflects the requirements of the influenza vaccination Secretary Directions.

Further information regarding the vaccination requirements for HCWs in Victoria, can be found on the [Vaccination for healthcare workers webpage](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/vaccination-for-healthcare-workers) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/vaccination-for-healthcare-workers>>. This includes policy guidance for healthcare settings.

## Data collection, monitoring and reporting of HCW influenza vaccination uptake

Individuals responsible for reporting HCW influenza vaccination data must be registered as a VICNISS web form user. To apply for registration, see <https://www.vicniss.org.au/>

Health services are required to submit their final data to the VICNISS Coordinating Centre by **31 August 2024**, via the [VICNISS user portal](https://www.vicniss.org.au/healthcare-workers/modules/healthcare-worker-influenza-vaccination/) <<https://www.vicniss.org.au/healthcare-workers/modules/healthcare-worker-influenza-vaccination/>>.

Further information on [vaccination surveillance protocols](https://www.vicniss.org.au/healthcare-workers/modules/healthcare-worker-influenza-vaccination) is available at <<https://www.vicniss.org.au/healthcare-workers/modules/healthcare-worker-influenza-vaccination>>

Alternatively, contact the VICNISS Coordinating Centre on 9342 9333 or email vicniss@mh.org.au.

## 2024 influenza vaccine brands and virus strains

Refer to Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) advice for details of the seasonal influenza vaccines registered and available for use in Australia in 2024 and the influenza virus strains included in the vaccines. [ATAGI statement on the administration of seasonal influenza vaccines in 2024](https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-statement-on-the-administration-of-seasonal-influenza-vaccines-in-2024?language=en)  <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/publications/atagi-statement-on-the-administration-of-seasonal-influenza-vaccines-in-2024?language=en>

Vaccines can be ordered from your usual influenza vaccine supplier.

## Additional information and resources

Vaccination providers should refer to the department’s [Seasonal influenza vaccine webpage](https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/seasonal-influenza-vaccine) <<https://www.health.vic.gov.au/immunisation/seasonal-influenza-vaccine>> for up-to-date information about the 2024 influenza vaccine including ATAGI advice, links to resources and clinical guidance, vaccine safety, and reporting requirements.

## Key contacts

Immunisation Program, Victorian Department of Health via email: immunisation@health.vic.gov.au.

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