

Influvac® Consumer Medical Information

What is influenza (flu)?

Influenza is an infectious illness. Influenza is spread by small droplets from the nose, throat or mouth of an infected person. Symptoms of influenza begin 48 hours after coming into contact with the virus. These consist of chills, fever, generalised aches and pains, headache and respiratory symptoms (such as a sore throat, runny nose or cough). The severity and type of symptoms can vary. Most people recover completely within a week. The risk of serious complications is greater in very young, very old and chronically ill persons.

How does it work?

- Influvac is used to prevent certain types of influenza.
- The vaccine works by causing the body to produce its own protection (antibodies) against three different types of influenza virus.
- Each year new types of influenza virus can appear, so every year Influvac is changed to contain fragments of the new types of virus. Therefore, influenza vaccination is recommended every year.
- Please note that Influvac will only protect you against the three types of influenza virus used to make the vaccine. It will not protect you from influenza caused by other types of influenza virus or from infections with other agents causing flu-like symptoms (such as the common cold).
- The vaccine will not give you the flu as it does not contain 'live' virus. However, the vaccine takes about two weeks to provide immunity, so you are still able to be infected and should take care during this time.

Who should be vaccinated?

Those at risk of complications from the flu have most to gain from vaccination. However, anybody can get the flu, even healthy people. Although you may not be at risk of complications you may help spread the flu to those who are. The best way to protect yourself and those around you is to get vaccinated.

Strains* included in the 2010 Influvac® vaccine for Australia:

- A (H1N1): an A/California/7/2009 (H1N1) - like strain, 15 µg HA per dose**
- A (H3N2): an A/Perth/16/2009 (H3N2) - like strain, 15 µg HA per dose
- B: a B/Brisbane/60/2008 - like strain, 15 µg HA per dose

*As Approved by the World Health Organisation and the Australian Influenza Vaccine Committee.

**Please note the H1N1 ("swine flu") vaccine is included in the dosage above and is not required separately.

Vaccination and pregnancy:

It is recommended that influenza vaccine be offered in advance to women planning a pregnancy and to pregnant women who will be in the second and third trimester during the influenza season, including those in the first trimester at the time of vaccination.

What are the side effects?

As with any medicine, side effects can occur. Most are mild and do not last long. Common vaccination side effects include; redness, swelling and tenderness at the injection site. Occasionally mild fever and a general feeling of being unwell may develop, sometimes with muscle and joint pain, nausea and dizziness. These are mild reactions and usually disappear within one or two days. Rare side effects such as neurological disorders and inflammatory disorders have been reported very rarely following the use of influenza vaccines, although a direct relationship has not been established. Please visit your doctor if you have any problems following vaccination.

How is the vaccine administered?

You must provide written consent for vaccination within this document. The immunisation nurse will then administer the vaccine by injection in the upper arm muscle (usually the non-dominant arm).

Things to be careful of after receiving the vaccination:

Influvac should not normally interfere with your ability to drive a car or operate machinery. But in some people vaccination can cause dizziness or light-headedness. Make sure you know how you react to Influvac before you drive a car, operate machinery, or do anything that could be dangerous if you are dizzy or light-headed.

CONSENT FOR VACCINATION

Please answer the following questions. The information you provide is private and confidential and will not be used for any other purpose.	YES	NO
Will this be your first flu vaccination?		
Have you ever had an allergic reaction to any vaccine?		
Are you allergic to chicken proteins such as eggs or feathers?		
Are you allergic to gentamicin?		
Do you currently have a cold, flu or severe infection with a high temperature?		
Do you have allergies to any other medicines, foods, dyes or preservatives?		
Are you pregnant, breast feeding or do you intend to become pregnant?		
Have you ever had an illness affecting the nervous system, in particular Guillian-Barre Syndrome (GBS)?		
Are you currently taking any of the following medications: warfarin, dilantin, theophylline, corstisone or prednisone?		
Are you currently taking any other medicines or have received another vaccine?		
Do you suffer from any medical conditions, such as an immune deficiency condition or a bleeding disorder?		

- If you have answered yes to any of these questions it still may be appropriate for you to be vaccinated, however, you may wish to visit your doctor instead. Please discuss any concerns with the immunisation nurse.
- **It is important that you remain in the vicinity of the place of vaccination for at least 15 minutes after your vaccination.**

Name (print) _____ Employed by _____

I have read and understand the information and have accurately answered the questions above. I consent to participate in the vaccination program against:

Influenza (Influvac® - single dose vaccination)

Sign _____ Date _____

FOR IMMUNISATION NURSE USE ONLY

Batch # _____ Date _____

Name (print) _____ Sign _____