

Influenza and COVID-19 Vaccinations

Frequently Asked Questions

Will the COVID-19 vaccine also protect me against the flu?

The COVID-19 vaccine will not protect you against influenza (flu). It will be important to get a flu vaccination next flu season. Flu vaccination reduces your chances of getting influenza, which means it reduces the risk of you having influenza at the same time as a COVID-19 infection.

Being vaccinated against the flu also helps to protect others, particularly people who are more vulnerable to infections (e.g. elderly people). The flu vaccination for next flu season is expected to become available in NSW from May 2021.

Follow the guidance of your GP or health professional about when is best to schedule each dose of the COVID-19 vaccine (two doses in total) and the flu vaccine.

Do I need to get both the influenza vaccine and the COVID-19 vaccine?

As always, everyone in NSW will be encouraged to also have their flu vaccination once the latest seasonal flu vaccine is available.

Can I get my influenza vaccine at the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine?

There is no clinical evidence to suggest that the COVID-19 vaccines react with any other vaccine. However, to be safe, experts have said not to have both vaccines at the same time.

Can I get the regular flu vaccine around the same time as the COVID-19 vaccine?

Advice from Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI) is that the preferred minimum interval between administration of either the Pfizer/BioNTech or the University of Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines and any influenza vaccine is 14 days.

It is not recommended to provide an influenza vaccine on the same day as a COVID-19 vaccine.

I never get the flu shot, why do I need this vaccine?

NSW Health are encouraging everyone in NSW to be vaccinated if they are offered the vaccine.

The vaccine is our best chance at reducing the seriousness of COVID-19 in individuals and controlling spread in the community.