

Annual Influenza Vaccine is recommended and funded for the following groups of children:

Children 6 months - 4 years (inclusive):

Hospitalised for respiratory illness

Repeated presentation to primary care with lower respiratory tract illness

Children 6 months and older:

Chronic lower respiratory tract disease

- Asthma on regular preventive therapy
- Bronchiectasis
- Other chronic respiratory disease with impaired lung function

Cardiac disease

- Rheumatic heart disease
- Congenital heart disease

Diabetes

Down Syndrome

Neuromuscular and central nervous system diseases/disorders

- Any condition with increased risk of aspiration
- Muscle weakness that might predispose to pneumonia

Chronic renal disease

Any form of cancer

Other conditions that may put the child at risk of severe infection:

- Autoimmune disease
- Immunosuppression or immune deficiency, HIV infection
- Transplant recipients
- Haemoglobinopathies
- Long-term aspirin
- Cochlear implant, or intracranial shunt
- Errors of metabolism at risk of major metabolic decompensation
- Pre- or post-splenectomy

Recommended but not funded for children:

Aged under 5 years (unless are in the list above)

With asthma but not requiring regular preventive therapy

Who may transmit influenza to persons at increased risk of complications from influenza

Who are travelling

Please place these children on recall for flu vaccine.

Children in the above groups may also require additional immunisations – see immunisation handbook chapter 4 for condition-specific recommendations.

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