

## Mannum Medical – Flu News for 2018

Flu season typically affects Australia from June to September, with the peak being August. Recent evidence suggests that protection following flu vaccination may begin to wear off after three to four months. Maximum protection may not be achieved if administered too early in the season.

The Flu Vaccine will be available at Mannum Medical from early May, we will be taking bookings from the 26<sup>th</sup> March. For patients 65 years and over, we will be holding flu clinics or taking pre-booked appointments for all other age groups.

As part of the Annual Influenza Program, a free [flu vaccination](#) is available for people who are at greater risk of developing complications if they get the flu.

The flu vaccine is **free** to:

- everyone aged 65 years and over
- all pregnant women (including those in the first trimester)
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander children aged 6 months up to 5 years of age
- all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 15 years of age and over
- people six months of age or older with the following underlying chronic medical conditions:
  - cardiac disease
  - chronic respiratory conditions including severe asthma
  - other chronic illnesses requiring regular medical follow up or hospitalisation in the previous year, for example diabetes, chronic renal (kidney) failure, chronic metabolic disease and haemoglobinopathies
  - chronic neurological conditions that may impact on respiratory function including multiple sclerosis, spinal cord injuries, seizure disorders and other neuromuscular disorders
  - people with impaired immunity, including HIV infection, malignancy and chronic steroid use
  - children on long term aspirin therapy

**For all other patients who wish to have a flu vaccine we will have stock available to purchase for \$14.95, you will need a consult booked in with the doctor (consult bulk billed)**

Quadrivalent influenza vaccines (QIV) are available in Australia and contain antigens of four influenzae strains (two A strains and two B strains).

For people aged 65 years of age and older, specially formulated high dose trivalent vaccines (TIV) are available containing three strains (two A and one B). These vaccines offer better protection for the elderly against influenza infection.

If you are unsure regarding eligibility or have any questions, please contact us at Mannum Medical on (08)85690 222, follow us on Facebook or view our website [www.mannummedical.com.au](http://www.mannummedical.com.au)