

## 2021 Influenza vaccination

**CREMORNE MEDICAL PRACTICE IS LAUNCHING OUR FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR 2021.  
Please see relevant information below.**

**Q. Should I bother getting the flu vaccine? There were few flu cases last year and I just want the COVID vaccine.**

**A.** We're aware that many patients' focus is on the COVID vaccine. While many of us will need to wait some months to get the COVID vaccine, it is essential that we also continue to remain vigilant about the influenza virus. We strongly encourage all our patients to be immunised against flu - with fewer limits to social distancing, we expect there will be more cases of flu this year compared to the previous year.

**Q. I've already had the COVID vaccine, do I still need a flu injection?**

**A.** Being vaccinated against COVID does not protect you from contracting flu. Equally, being vaccinated against flu does not provide protection from contracting COVID. So both vaccinations are recommended.

**Q. Are there going to be issues with flu vaccine stock, as there currently is with the COVID vaccine?**

**A.** We have secured a large amount of stock of all flu vaccines. Based on last year's demand, we are likely to have sufficient vaccines to meet patient demand.

**Q. When should I get the flu vaccine?**

**A.** Annual immunisation is recommended as the influenza virus is constantly changing, and the vaccine changes accordingly.

Getting vaccinated in autumn is recommended. This provides protection in time for the peak influenza season (usually in winter in most parts of Australia). However, it is never too late to vaccinate since influenza can circulate in the community all year round.

For further information please refer to:

<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/immunisation/immunisation-services/influenza-flu-immunisation-service>

**Q. How should I time the flu vaccine relative to the COVID vaccine?**

**A.** It is currently not recommended to have an influenza vaccine with a COVID-19 vaccine on the same day. An interval of at least 14 days between a dose of influenza vaccine and a dose of COVID-19 vaccine is advised.

If you are eligible in Phase 1b, you may have your COVID vaccine prior to your flu vaccine – so long as there is a 14 day delay between both these vaccines. If you think you may have to wait for your COVID vaccine, as there is limited stock being sent to general practices by the Federal Government, please have your flu vaccine first.

If you are in Phase 2a or 2b, our recommendation is you have the flu vaccine from the end April.

**Q. How will the flu vaccination process work this year?**

**A.** We will continue to conduct our flu clinics by appointment only, so we can ensure effective social distancing. Drop in clinics will not return until the pandemic is over. Reception will give you a time slot to attend. Please arrive promptly to our back waiting room – early arrivals will be asked to wait outside so we can manage the number of patients in our waiting room.

**Q. When will the clinics run?**

**A.** From **26th April 2021** at the following times:

**Monday: 2.00-4.00pm**

**Tuesday: 1.30pm-3.30pm**

**Wednesday: 8.30am-10.30am**

**Friday: 10.45am-12.45pm**

**Q. Who can attend the clinics?**

**A.** Any patients over the age of 16. For patients under 16, a doctor's appointment is required. We recommend families with children under 16 attend a doctors' appointment so you can all be immunised at the same time. We request 1 child and 1 parent in the Doctor's consulting room at any one time.

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND ANY APPOINTMENT IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY COLD/FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS**

**Q. What are the vaccine and administration costs?**

**Vaccine Fee - \$12** or free for eligible patients^ who are :

- Those aged 65 and over,
- Children aged 6 months—under 5 yrs,
- Those with a chronic health condition\* which predisposes them to flu,
- Pregnant women,
- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people from aged 6 months.

**Administration/Consultation fee:**

- If attending nurse led flu clinic, \$14
- If attending a Doctor's appointment, the consultation fee is \$52.75 (meaning your out of pocket expenses after your Medicare rebate is \$14)

*^ Please check with reception for eligibility*

*\* Chronic health condition that can increase the risk of complications from Influenza include: Diabetes, Heart Disease, Lung Disease (eg severe asthma, COPD), Kidney Disease, Impaired Immunity, Neurological condition (e.g. MS, seizure disorder)*

*The information provided in this fact sheet is provided for general purposes only and is not intended to be specific medical advice. For information specific to your circumstances, please consult a general practitioner.*