

## 2022 Influenza vaccination

**CREMORNE MEDICAL PRACTICE IS LAUNCHING FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR 2022. Please see relevant information below:**

**Q. Should I bother getting the flu vaccine? There were few flu cases last year and I've had my COVID vaccines.**

**A.** We're aware that many patients' focus has been on 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 international travel restarting and fewer COVID restrictions, we expect there will be more cases of flu this year compared to the previous 2 years.

**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. 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.

**Q. I am also eligible for the winter dose of the COVID vaccine. How should I time this with the flu vaccine?**

**A.** You can receive both vaccines at the same time. There will be clinics specifically for co-administered flu and COVID vaccines. Please let Reception know at time of booking that you're eligible for both. For the COVID winter booster, you must:

- Be 65 or over/be over 16 and severely immune compromised/identify as Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander and be aged 50 years and over **AND**
- Have had your last COVID booster at least 4 months ago **OR**
- If you have contracted COVID since your last booster, you must wait 4 months from start of your COVID infection, regardless of when you had your booster

**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. Reception will give you a time slot to attend. Please arrive promptly to our second 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 **19th April 2022** at the following times:

**Mon 9.15-10.45 am – combined flu & COVID**

**Tues 2.15-3.45pm – combined flu & COVID**

**Thurs 9.45-11.15am – flu only**

**Fri 1.30-3.00pm – flu only**

**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.

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

**Vaccine Fee - \$12** or free for eligible patients<sup>^</sup> 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, \$15
- If attending a Doctor's appointment, the consultation fee is \$54.10 (meaning your out of pocket expenses after your Medicare rebate is \$15)

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

<sup>^</sup> 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.*