

Flu News Update

Thursday 24 March 2022

Another Flu News already? At this fast moving time we have more urgent updates to share and questions to answer!

The flu vaccines are currently rolling into the store at HCL and rolling back out to customers. We have plenty of stock at HCL and couriers are working hard to get your order to you as quickly as possible.

Timeline for the 2022 Season

Vaccines dispatched from HCL	From w/c 21st March
Private vaccinations start	When stock is received
Public vaccination programme begins	From Friday 1st April

We are still aiming for all vaccinators to have flu vaccines in their fridges ready to start the funded flu campaign on 1st April.

However because there is a chance of delays within the distribution system we recommend you start booking your vaccinations after your stock has arrived.

IMPORTANT – PLEASE NOTE

Distribution out of HCL – Temperature loggers

Because the pressure on the courier system could potentially cause delivery delays, we have included temperature loggers in many shipments this week. These provide additional information about the cold chain, which will be needed if the vaccine gets held up in transit.

In summary here is what you need to do:

- Follow the instructions that came with the shipment, namely:
- Stop the temperature monitor as soon as you open your delivery. This is done by pressing the "Stop" button once.
- If "green light" when temperature monitor stopped, no need to report; stock can be used
- If "red light", follow instructions and email form and temp record file to aunz.medicalinformation@seqirus.com
- Please do not call; a response to the enquiry will be sent in the next 2-3 business days
- Store the flu vaccines appropriately while you await a response

Information on the Flu Season – IMAC's Flu Kit Book

There has been a change to the release of the Flu Kit Book since our last Flu News – the Ministry of Health is still working on the information and the book will not be published until this is complete.

The best way to keep up to date with the latest information is to go to the IMAC website www.influenza.org.nz. This is where you will find updates on when to expect the printed book.

We recommend you use the website as your primary source of information so you can be sure you have the latest updates and changes.

The printed books will be posted out when ready, keep an eye on the website to find out timing. Our Territory Managers will also have copies, ask them if you would like extras.

For your reference, here are handy links for flu information:

- Ministry of Health: email influenzaimmunisation@health.govt.nz for queries about the 2022 influenza programme and promotional campaign
- IMAC – website www.influenza.org.nz phone 0800IMMUNE (0800 466 863) for urgent clinical queries
- IMAC – email 0800immune@auckland.ac.nz for non-urgent clinical queries and information about flu kits, resources etc. You should expect a response within 24-48hrs.
- Seqirus – email nzadmin@seqirus.com for support materials or other questions and the phone details for our Territory Managers are included below

What will the 2022 Flu Season be like?

- The New Zealand influenza season is typically kick-started by importation of cases from overseas.¹⁻³ The opening of international borders at the start of our flu season and relaxing COVID-19 prevention measures is expected to allow recirculation of respiratory viruses, including flu.⁴
- It's unclear yet whether the lack of flu last winter will have an impact on population vulnerability to flu this winter.^{1,2}
- Influenza vaccination is an important preventative measure to continue to take pressure off the health care system while the threat of COVID-19 continues – and to reduce the possibility of being infected with two viruses at once.^{1,2}
- In response to these risks the Ministry of Health have ensured there are nearly 2 million doses of flu vaccine available in NZ this season – enough for everyone who wants a vaccine.⁵
- Influenza has been circulating at higher levels in late 2021 and early 2022 in the Northern Hemisphere – especially in the USA and UK – than we've seen since the COVID-19 pandemic began.⁶
- The same situation is playing out in Australia, and Australia's Chief Health Officer, Professor Paul Kelly has commented that "with two years of no flu, we will have (an influenza season) and we are prepared for all eventualities."⁷

Flu Vaccines for 2022

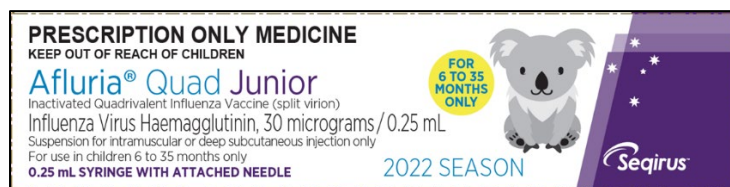
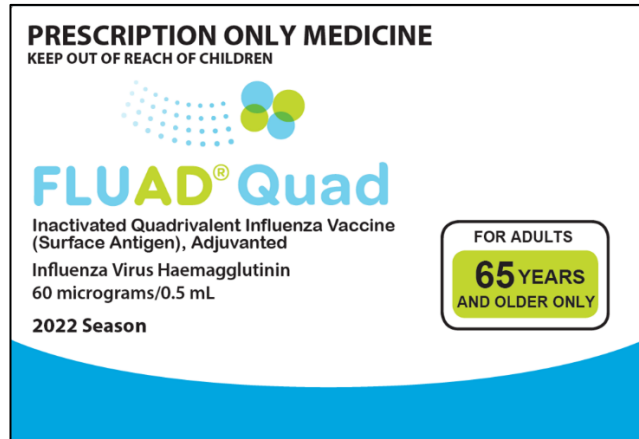
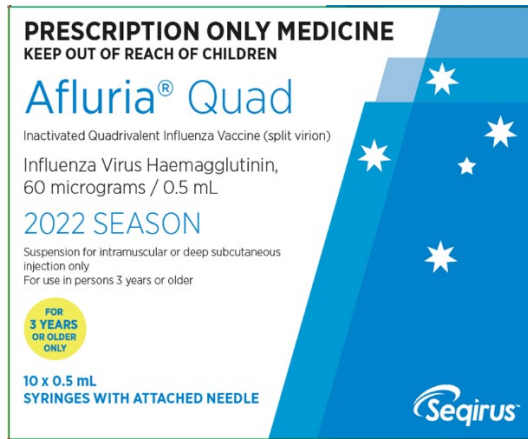
Description	Age	Doses per pack	Needle attached	Pharmacode	HCL Material	List Price per pack (ex GST)	Dimensions
Afluria® Quad (funded and unfunded)	3 years and over	10	Yes	2631970	1173541	\$110	125 x 104 x 47 mm
Afluria® Quad Junior (funded and unfunded)	6 – 35 mths	1	Yes	2631989	1173542	\$11	131 x 32 x 27 mm

Fluad® Quad (unfunded)	65 years and over	10	No	2631997	1173543	\$200	154 x 130 x 23 mm
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The data sheets for Afluria® Quad, Afluria® Quad Junior and Fluad® Quad are on the Medsafe website:

[AFLURIA Quad data sheet](#)

[FLUAD Quad data sheet](#)



Seqirus Support team

Feel free to contact your Territory Manager below:

Central/North/West Auckland and Northland:

Paul Kelly 021 383 723

Central/East/South Auckland:

Praveen Nalam 027 482 1305

Central North Island:

Brian Booth 027 230 6011

South Island, Wellington and Pharmacy:

Simonne Findlater 027 485 7812

Future Communications

Don't forget to register your interest at nzadmin@seqirus.com if you want the Flu News email sent to you directly.

Kind Regards

Jill

JILL DESBOROUGH

Marketing Manager

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References:

1. Nzdoctor.co.nz. "Third Time Unlucky for Flu's return in Winter?" <https://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/article/third-time-unlucky-flus-return-winter> Accessed February 2022
2. 1 News. "Michael Baker:2022 flu season may be particularly tough". <https://www.1news.co.nz/2022/02/14/michael-baker-2022-flu-season-may-be-particularly-tough/> Accessed February 2022
3. Sullivan S. Med J Aust 2022; 216 (1): doi: 10.5694/mja2.51340 Published online: 22 November 2021
4. PHARMAC Pharmac proposes widened access to the flu vaccine for Maori and pacific peoples for 2022 season <https://pharmac.govt.nz/news-and-resources/news/pharmac-proposes-widened-access-to-the-flu-vaccine-for-maori-and-pacific-peoples-for-2022-season/> Accessed March 2022
5. Nzdoctor.co.nz. "Cold viruses and COVID-19 causing illness to date – no flu yet" <https://www.nzdoctor.co.nz/article/cold-viruses-and-covid-19-causing-illness-date-no-flu-yet> Accessed March 2022
6. WHO. Influenza surveillance report. <https://app.powerbi.com/view?r=eyJrljoiYWU4YjYyYUyN2YtMDBkOC00MG11LTlhN2UtZGE5NTJhY2E1ZThhIiwidCI6ImY2MTBjMG13LWJkMjQ0NGl3OS04MTBiLTNkYzI4MGFmYjY0U5MCIslmMiOj9> Accessed February 2022.
7. 7 NEWS. "First post-pandemic surge of flu cases expected to arrive during second wave of Omicron". <https://7news.com.au/lifestyle/health-wellbeing/first-post-pandemic-surge-of-flu-cases-expected-to-arrive-during-second-wave-of-omicron-c-5544230>. Accessed February 2022.

AFLURIA® QUAD and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR are funded Prescription Medicines – restrictions apply. AFLURIA® QUAD (for use in persons aged 3 years and older) and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR (for use in children aged 6 months to 35 months inclusive) are inactivated split virion quadrivalent influenza vaccines, single dose pre-filled glass syringes containing 0.5 mL or 0.25 mL, respectively, of suspension for injection. Indicated for the prevention of influenza caused by the four A and B virus types contained in the vaccine. Each dose contains 15 mcg or 7.5 mcg, respectively, of surface haemagglutinin from the four influenza virus strains. **CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Infants younger than 6 months of age. Previous anaphylaxis following a dose of any influenza vaccine or anaphylaxis following exposure to any component of the vaccine, excluding egg protein. **PRECAUTIONS:** Postpone in patients with acute febrile illness. Manage any fever, febrile convulsions, or anaphylactic reactions; consider interactions with other vaccines, medications, or laboratory tests; history of anaphylaxis to egg, history of Guillain-Barré syndrome which has occurred within 6 weeks of previous influenza vaccination. Response may be lower in immunocompromised patients and people aged 65 years or older. **ADVERSE EFFECTS:** Common injection site reactions e.g. pain, swelling, and redness; AFLURIA® QUAD: headache, myalgia, malaise, nausea, chills, vomiting, and fever; AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR: irritability, diarrhoea and loss of appetite. **ADMINISTRATION:** Shake before administering via intramuscular or deep subcutaneous injection. **DOSAGE:** AFLURIA® QUAD: A single 0.5 mL dose; children 3 years to <9 years not previously vaccinated require two doses given at least four weeks apart. AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR: A single 0.25 mL dose; infants and children not previously vaccinated require two doses given at least four weeks apart. Before prescribing, review the AFLURIA® QUAD and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR Data Sheet at www.seqirus.co.nz or www.medsafe.govt.nz AFLURIA® QUAD and AFLURIA® QUAD JUNIOR are registered trademarks of Seqirus UK Ltd. 10/21

FLUAD® QUAD is an unfunded Prescription Medicine. FLUAD® QUAD is an inactivated influenza vaccine, with an MF59® Adjuvant, as a suspension for injection in a single-dose prefilled glass syringe. **PRESENTATION:** Each 0.5 mL dose contains 15 mcg of surface haemagglutinin from four influenza virus strains. **INDICATIONS:** For active immunisation against influenza, for people 65 years of age and older. **CONTRAINDICATIONS:** Severe allergic reaction (e.g. anaphylaxis) to a previous influenza vaccination or to the active substances, adjuvant, or any other constituents or trace residues. Persons with a history of egg allergy (non-anaphylaxis) can receive a full dose of vaccine in any immunisation setting. **ADVERSE EVENTS:** Common injection site pain, fatigue and headache. Most of these reactions disappear within 3 days. Rare but serious events include thrombocytopenia; lymphadenopathy; muscular weakness; allergic reactions such as anaphylactic shock, anaphylaxis; encephalomyelitis, Guillain Barré syndrome, neuritis, neuralgia, paraesthesia, or convulsions; vasculitis with transient renal involvement; generalised skin reactions; and severe injection-site reactions (extensive limb swelling or cellulitis-like reactions). **PRECAUTIONS:** Postpone immunisation in patients with acute febrile illness or infection. Antibody responses may not be protective in all vaccines, particularly in immunosuppressed patients. FLUAD® Quad is not for intravascular or subcutaneous administration. Persons with a history of anaphylaxis to egg should be vaccinated only in medical facilities with staff experienced in recognising and treating anaphylaxis. Co-administration with other vaccines has not been studied. If Guillain-Barré syndrome has occurred within 6 weeks of previous influenza vaccination, the decision to give FLUAD® Quad should be based on careful consideration of the potential benefits and risks. **DOSAGE AND ADMINISTRATION:** Gently shake before use to produce a milky-white suspension; inject a single 0.5 mL dose into the deltoid muscle. Store at 2–8°C; do not freeze; protect from light. Before prescribing, review the FLUAD® Quad Data Sheet at www.seqirus.co.nz. FLUAD® and FLUAD® Quad are registered trademarks of Seqirus UK Ltd. 10/21 NZL-FLU-22-0015. TAPS DA2207MV