

Pharmac eligibility criteria for 2026 funded influenza vaccination



Eligibility criteria may change throughout the influenza season and this list may be added to.

To check criteria is current, search influenza vaccine at New Zealand Pharmaceutical Schedule.

Visit <https://schedule.pharmac.govt.nz/ScheduleOnline.php> or scan the QR code.

Funded influenza vaccine is available each year for people who meet the following criteria set by Pharmac:*

1. All people 65 years of age and over; or
2. People under 65 years of age who have any of the following cardiovascular diseases:
 - ischaemic heart disease, or
 - congestive heart failure, or
 - rheumatic heart disease, or
 - congenital heart disease, or
 - cerebrovascular disease; or
 - have either of the following chronic respiratory diseases:
 - asthma, if on a regular preventative therapy^a, or
 - other chronic respiratory disease with impaired lung function,^b or
 - have diabetes; or
 - have chronic renal disease; or
 - have any cancer, excluding basal and squamous skin cancers if not invasive; or
 - have any of the following other conditions:
 - autoimmune disease^c, or
 - immune suppression or immune deficiency, or
 - HIV, or
 - transplant recipient, or
 - neuromuscular and CNS diseases/disorder,^d or
 - haemoglobinopathies, or
 - children on long-term aspirin, or
 - a cochlear implant, or
 - errors of metabolism at risk of major metabolic decompensation, or
 - pre and post splenectomy, or
 - Down syndrome, or
 - are pregnant (any trimester); or
3. Children 4 years of age and under who have been hospitalised for respiratory illness or have a history of significant respiratory illness; or
4. People under 65 years of age who:
 - have any of the following serious mental health conditions:
 - schizophrenia, or
 - major depressive disorder, or
 - bipolar disorder, or
 - schizoaffective disorder, or
 - are currently accessing secondary or tertiary mental health and addiction services.

**Note: For eligible tamariki who require two doses of the vaccine, both doses are funded.*

Unless meeting the criteria set out above, the following conditions are excluded from funding:

- asthma not requiring regular preventative therapy
- hypertension and/or dyslipidaemia without evidence of end-organ disease.

Explanatory notes:

- a. People with asthma who are prescribed a preventer inhaler are entitled to a funded influenza vaccination, regardless of whether they are adherent with treatment.
- b. Chronic respiratory diseases include chronic bronchitis, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, emphysema.
- c. Autoimmune diseases may include coeliac disease, Crohn's disease, Grave's disease, Hashimoto's thyroiditis, lupus, rheumatoid arthritis. Immune suppression or immune deficiency includes disease modifying anti-rheumatic drugs (DMARDs) or targeted biologic therapies.
- d. Neuromuscular and CNS diseases/disorders include cerebral palsy, congenital myopathy, epilepsy, hydrocephaly, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis, muscular dystrophy, myasthenia gravis, Parkinson's disease, spinal cord injury.
- e. Haemoglobinopathies include sickle cell anaemia, thalassemia.