

2024 Influenza (flu) vaccine comparisons

Age: 6 months to 64 years

Age: 65+ years (over page)

| Age: 6 months to 64 years | | |
|---|---|---|
| Vaccine | INFLUVAC TETRA | FLUCELVAX |
| Cost | Free for those who meet eligibility criteria,* otherwise \$52.00 | \$57.50 (<u>not</u> funded for anybody) |
| Safe & effective for pregnant people? | Yes | Yes |
| Production technology | Egg-based** – traditional production technology; used for all previous flu vaccines given in Aotearoa | Cell-based – newer production technology; used for three flu seasons overseas already with over 216 million doses given |
| Accuracy of match to 2024's circulating flu strains*** | Very close match | Exact match |
| Effectiveness (in preventing influenza/preventing serious illness if you catch influenza) | Pregnant people: 70-80% 0-15yrs: 60-70% 16-64yrs: 40-60% 65+ yrs: 60% | Up to 19% more effective than standard flu vaccine |
| Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not contain live viruses • Cannot cause influenza • May cause common responses such as fever in children, pain/redness/swelling at injection site, or headache, fatigue, or muscle aches • 3-8% of children under 7yrs may experience a febrile convulsion • 0.001% of people may experience anaphylaxis (1 person in 1 million) | |

*See information at the bottom of this post for eligibility criteria

**Can still be administered to people with a history of egg allergy or egg anaphylaxis

***Circulating strains of the flu virus change every year and flu vaccines are manufactured each year to match these

NB: While Flucelvax can give you greater protection against influenza (the flu), we want to assure you that the “standard” flu vaccine, Inluvac Tetra, is a very effective and adequate flu vaccine that will still provide you with significant protection.

| Age: 65+ years | | |
|--|--|--|
| Vaccine | INFLUVAC TETRA | FLUAD QUAD |
| Cost | Free | \$61.00 (<u>not</u> funded for anybody) |
| Difference? | Does not contain MF59[®] Adjuvant* | Does contain MF59[®] Adjuvant* |
| Effectiveness (in preventing influenza/preventing serious illness if you catch influenza) | 60% | In comparison to Influvac Tetra: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Even less chance of contracting flu virus • Even lower risk of flu-related complications • Even longer protection against flu |
| Safety | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May cause common responses such as pain/redness/swelling at injection site, or headache, fatigue, or muscle aches | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Similar common responses to Influvac Tetra • More likely to experience common responses but responses will also resolve more quickly |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Do not contain live viruses • Cannot cause influenza • 0.001% of people may experience anaphylaxis (1 person in 1 million) | |

*The MF59[®] Adjuvant is a substance that improves the effectiveness of the vaccine by helping your body to create more antibodies to fight the influenza virus

NB: While FLUAD Quad can give you greater protection against influenza (the flu), we want to assure you that the “standard” flu vaccine, Influvac Tetra, is a very effective and adequate flu vaccine that will still provide you with significant protection.