

Free nasal spray flu vaccine for children 2 to 17 years old



If your child is aged 2 to 17 years old (before they turn 18), they can now be vaccinated using a nasal spray instead of having an injection.

The nasal spray vaccination has been used in other countries like America and the UK for over 10 years and has been given to millions of children.

How the nasal spray flu vaccine works

- The vaccine is sprayed into each nostril.
- It works quickly in the nose, so it still works even if your child sneezes afterwards.
- It has a small amount of weakened virus and teaches your child's body how to fight the flu without causing the illness.
- The nasal spray flu vaccine works just as well as the flu injection.
- Like all flu vaccines, it is updated every year, so children need a dose each year.

Side effects

Most side effects are mild and temporary. Children may:

- get a runny or blocked nose
- get a mild headache
- feel tired
- eat less than usual.

Serious side effects, such as anaphylaxis (severe allergic reaction), are very rare.

Some children with medical conditions should not get the nasal spray flu vaccine but may be able to get the injection instead. Your GP, pharmacist or vaccine provider will know what's best for your child.

Who can get it

- The nasal spray flu vaccine is free for children aged 2, 3, 4 and 5 years (**before they turn 6**). This age group is more likely to get complications from the flu and can spread it easily to others.
- It is also available for children aged 6 to 17 years (**before they turn 18**) who struggle with needles.
- The flu injection is still free for everyone
- The nasal spray flu vaccine contains pork products (porcine gelatine). Religious guidance on the nasal flu vaccine may vary. You may want to talk to your health professional and faith leader when deciding which vaccine option is right for your child.

Where to get vaccinated

Your child can get vaccinated at a:

- GP
- pharmacy
- community health clinic
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Community Controlled Health Service.

A Medicare card is not required to get a flu vaccine. Some GPs may charge a consultation fee.

They can have it at the same time as other routine childhood vaccines.

Let's protect what matters.



You can find out more about the free flu vaccine, and resources in your language by searching 'flu facts qld' or using this QR Code.