Ask the question

'Are you up to date with your flu and COVID-19 vaccinations?'

With international borders open and eased social restrictions, we have seen an increase in cases of influenza, coinciding with a COVID-19 winter wave, making influenza and COVID-19 vaccination a priority over the coming months.

To help manage the winter outbreaks, we're encouraging General Practitioners (GP), practice nurses, practice managers and reception staff to **Ask the question, 'Are you up to date with your flu and COVID-19 vaccinations?'**

We know that vaccination is highly opportunistic, so we are providing health professionals with a resource pack to encourage you to ask the question.

Resource pack

- **Monitor talkers and monitor strips** - for the whole team to stick on their monitors, as a reminder to ask the question.
- **Point of sale** - letting patients know they can get their flu and COVID-19 vaccination at the same time.
- **Reception scripts** - to help the reception team to ask the question.
- **Dispensary cards** - to help clinical staff ask the question.
- **Vaccination certificates** - to help children feel brave and positive after receiving a vaccination.

A digital copy of these resources can be downloaded from the WNSW PHN website: **www.wnswphn.org.au/resources/resources_for_professionals**
For more information, email **sarah.obrien@wnswphn.org.au**

Asking the question

When you speak to a patient, ask if they are up to date with their influenza and COVID-19 vaccination. If the answer is yes, that's great. Check this against the Australian Immunisation Register (AIR) and move on.

If they say no, it's a great time to engage in a conversation about the importance of influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations.

If they are still hesitant, that is ok, move on with the discussion.

Things to consider

- Do you have enough vaccine to administer then and there?
- Do you need to reorder or request additional vaccines?
- Do you have a nurse available to administer then and there?
- Do you need to increase your staffing levels to cope?

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Some important things to know

- It is safe and recommended to get both influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations while breast/chest feeding.
- It is safe to administer the influenza and COVID-19 vaccinations at the same time.
- People who have been infected with COVID-19 should wait 3 months before receiving a COVID-19 vaccination. Infection will not provide ongoing immunity.
- People who have been infected with COVID-19 can receive the influenza vaccines without any minimum interval.
- People who have been infected with influenza can and should still receive their influenza and COVID-19 vaccination once they are feeling well and have no fever.
- COVID-19 vaccination is free for all people in Australia.
- For information about COVID-19, including vaccination information, visit **www.wnswphn.org.au/coronavirus**

Find out more about managing influenza and COVID-19 through WNSW PHN HealthPathways: **www.wnswphn.org.au/healthpathways**

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

The WNSW PHN COVID-19 support team

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