

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 nasal spray flu vaccine is sprayed in a child's nose.
- 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.

Who can get it

- In Queensland, 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 vaccine injection is free for everyone aged 6 months and older.

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 are rare. If your child becomes very sick after the vaccine, see your doctor.

Always let your doctor or pharmacist know if your child has any medical conditions. Yarn with your local health professional to check what is best 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.

In most cases, it is safe to receive other childhood vaccines with the flu vaccine but always yarn with your local health professional to check what's best for your child.

Let's protect what matters.



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