



تعميم رقم (189 / 2025) Circular No

Date: 2025/10/01

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To: Healthcare Facilities in the Emirate of Abu Dhabi

السادة/ منشآت الرعاية الصحية في إمارة أبوظبي
المحترمين

Subject: Prevention and Control of Influenza Infection in the Community (2025-2026)

الموضوع: الوقاية والحد من انتقال عدوى الانفلونزا في المجتمع (2025 – 2026)

Greetings,

تحية طيبة وبعد ،،،

We extend our greetings and best wishes for your continued success.

بدايةً، يسرنا أن نتقدم لكم بخالص التحية والتقدير متمنين لكم دوام التوفيق والسداد.

Coinciding with the beginning of the influenza season 2025-2026, and as a continuation of the Abu Dhabi Public Health Center (ADPHC) commitment to protect the health of individuals and prevent communicable diseases in the community including influenza infection, ADPHC urges all healthcare providers to comply with the following:

تزامناً مع بدء موسم الانفلونزا 2025-2026 وتماشياً مع التزام مركز أبوظبي للصحة العامة بحماية صحة الأفراد والحد من انتشار الأمراض المعدية بما فيها عدوى الانفلونزا، يهيب مركز أبوظبي للصحة العامة بجميع مزودي الرعاية الصحية الالتزام بما يلي:

First: Annual influenza vaccination is the most important measure to prevent influenza and its complications. Therefore, ADPHC provides the Influenza Inactivated Trivalent (IIV3) and the Influenza Inactivated High-Dose Trivalent (HD-IIV3) Northern Hemisphere vaccine for 2025-2026 influenza season, that contains the following strains of influenza viruses:

أولاً: يعتبر تطعيم الانفلونزا السنوي أهم إجراء لمنع الإصابة بمرض الانفلونزا ومضاعفاته، وعليه قام مركز أبوظبي للصحة العامة بتوفير لقاح الانفلونزا ثلاثي التكافؤ ولقاح الانفلونزا ثلاثي التكافؤ عالي الجرعة لموسم الانفلونزا 2025-2026 لنصف الكرة الأرضية الشمالي والذي يحتوي على السلالات التالية من فيروسات الانفلونزا:

- an A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus.
- an A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like virus;
- a B/Austria/1359417/2021 (B/Victoria lineage)-like virus.

- السلالة: A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) pdm09-like virus
- السلالة: A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like virus
- السلالة: B/Austria/1359417/2021(B/Victoria lineage)-like virus

Second: ADPHC provides two types of seasonal influenza vaccine:

ثانياً: يوفر مركز أبوظبي للصحة العامة نوعين من لقاحات الانفلونزا الموسمية:

- Influenza Inactivated Trivalent (IIV3)
- The Influenza Inactivated High-Dose Trivalent (HD-IIV3), for the age group 65 years and above

- لقاح الانفلونزا ثلاثي التكافؤ.
- لقاح الانفلونزا ثلاثي التكافؤ عالي الجرعة للفئات العمرية 65 فما فوق





دائرة الصحة
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

Third: If Influenza Inactivated High-Dose Trivalent (HD-IIV3) is not available in the visited healthcare facility, individuals aged 65 years and above shall be given Influenza Inactivated Trivalent (IIV3).

Fourth: The vaccines have already been distributed in healthcare facilities under Abu Dhabi Health Services Company – SEHA, and Mubadala Health as well as some private healthcare facilities and the Vaccination Qualified Pharmacies. Those facilities shall provide the vaccination service free of charge to all beneficiaries (Appendix 1).

Fifth: Vaccination Qualified healthcare facilities that procure any of the registered seasonal influenza vaccines in the UAE (Influenza Inactivated Trivalent (IIV3), Influenza Inactivated Quadrivalent (IIV4), or the live-attenuated), must strictly follow the manufacturer's instructions regarding the use, indicated age groups, precautions and contraindications.

Sixth: Healthcare providers shall configure the electronic system to identify the eligible groups, activate pop-up alerts on records, to ensure no vaccination opportunity is missed. In addition, they must strongly recommend the influenza vaccination to their patients, ensure it is taken at the earliest possible time, and direct patients to the clinics where the vaccine is available.

Seventh: Document all influenza vaccine doses through the online e-notification system: Immunization Information System (IIS), via the following link:

<https://bpmweb.doh.gov.ae/UserManagement/Login.aspx>

Eighth: Incidents of suspected vaccine adverse events must be reported through the e-notification system: Adverse Event Following Immunization (AEFI) via the following link:

<https://bpmweb.doh.gov.ae/UserManagement/Login.aspx>

Ninth: Strengthening surveillance and enhancing reporting to ADPHC all suspected or confirmed influenza cases through the e-notification system for infectious diseases via the following link:

<https://bpmweb.doh.gov.ae/usermanagement/MainPage.html>

Tenth: Adhere to the process of cases testing for suspected influenza and severe acute respiratory illness cases and follow the recommendations regarding the use of seasonal influenza antiviral treatment (Appendix 2).

ثالثاً: في حال عدم توفر لقاح الانفلونزا ثلاثي التكافؤ (عال الجرعة) في المنشأة التي تمت زيارتها، فيجب إعطاء الأفراد الذين يبلغون من العمر 65 عاماً فما فوق لقاح الانفلونزا ثلاثي التكافؤ.

رابعاً: تم توزيع هذه اللقاحات في المنشآت الصحية التابعة لشركة أبوظبي للخدمات الصحية "صحة" ومبادلة للرعاية الصحية، وكذلك في بعض المنشآت الصحية في القطاع الخاص، والصيدليات المؤهلة لإعطاء خدمة التطعيم. يجب على هذه المنشآت تقديم خدمة التطعيم مجاناً لجميع المستفيدين (المرفق 1).

خامساً: على المنشآت الصحية المؤهلة لتقديم خدمة التطعيم والتي تقوم بشراء أي من لقاحات الانفلونزا الموسمية المسجلة في الدولة (سواء كان لقاح الانفلونزا ثلاثي التكافؤ، أو لقاح الانفلونزا رباعي التكافؤ أو اللقاح الحيّ المضعف) التقيد بتعليمات الشركة المصنّعة فيما يتعلق بالاستخدام، والفئات العمرية والاحتياطات وموانع الاستعمال.

سادساً: على مقدمي الرعاية الصحية تفعيل النظام الإلكتروني لتحديد الفئة المستهدفة مع إرسال الرسائل والتنبيهات اللازمة للحث على التطعيم وعدم تفويت أي فرصة لتطعيم الفئات المستهدفة، مع التشديد على أهمية توصية المرضى بأخذ لقاح الانفلونزا الموسمية في أقرب وقت ممكن، وتوجيههم إلى العيادات التي يتوفر فيها اللقاح.

سابعاً: تسجيل جميع تطعيمات الانفلونزا التي يتم إعطاؤها عبر النظام الإلكتروني الخاص بالتطعيمات (IIS) المتوفر على الرابط التالي:

<https://bpmweb.doh.gov.ae/UserManagement/Login.aspx>

ثامناً: التبليغ في حال الاشتباه بحالات لآثار جانبية للتطعيم عبر النظام الإلكتروني الخاص بالآثار الجانبية الناتجة عن التطعيم (AEFI) على الرابط التالي:

<https://bpmweb.doh.gov.ae/UserManagement/Login.aspx>

تاسعاً: تعزيز الترصد الوبائي والإبلاغ لمركز أبوظبي للصحة العامة بكل حالات الانفلونزا المشتبه فيها أو المؤكدة وذلك عن طريق نظام التبليغ الإلكتروني للأمراض المعدية على الرابط التالي:

<https://bpmweb.doh.gov.ae/usermanagement/MainPage.html>

عاشراً: الالتزام بالإجراءات الخاصة لعمل فحوصات الانفلونزا المخبرية التشخيصية لحالات الانفلونزا المشتبه فيها وحالات الالتهابات التنفسية الحادة الشديدة واتباع التوصيات بشأن استخدام العلاج المضاد لفيروسات الانفلونزا الموسمية (المرفق 2).





Eleventh: Adhere to infection control guidelines that aim at reducing the risk of transmission in healthcare facilities (HCFs). Therefore, all HCFs must ensure availability of the required Personal Protective Equipment's (PPE) for droplet and airborne precautions for staff and provide masks for patients with respiratory systems at the point of entry to the HCF and encourage compliance with respiratory etiquette at all times.

For further information and inquiries regarding:

- Seasonal influenza vaccination, kindly contact us via email: flu@doh.gov.ae.
- Testing, notifications and infection control guidance, kindly contact us via email: responseCDD@adphc.gov.ae

This circular is effective from its issuance date.

We hope that all will adhere to the above, for the best interest of the community and healthcare sector in the Emirate.

Thank you for your cooperation,

This circular is designed for regulatory procedures and should not be used as content for media publication.

حادي عشر: التقيد بالمبادئ الإرشادية لمكافحة العدوى والتي تهدف إلى الحد من مخاطر انتقال الأمراض التنفسية في المنشآت الصحية. لذا يجب على كافة المنشآت الصحية العمل على توفير معدات الوقاية الشخصية المطلوبة للعاملين لاحترازات انتقال العدوى بالربذاذ وعبر الهواء، وتوفير الكمامات للمصابين بالأعراض التنفسية عند نقطة الدخول إلى المنشآت الصحية، وينبغي تشجيع الالتزام بالاحترازات التنفسية في جميع الأوقات.

للمزيد من المعلومات والاستفسارات بشأن:

- تطعيمات الانفلونزا يرجى التواصل عبر البريد الإلكتروني: flu@doh.gov.ae
- التعليمات الخاصة بالفحص والتبليغ وإرشادات مكافحة العدوى، يرجى التواصل عبر البريد الإلكتروني: [.responseCDD@adphc.gov.ae](mailto:responseCDD@adphc.gov.ae)

يدخل هذا التعميم حيز التنفيذ اعتباراً من تاريخ صدوره.

أملين من الجميع الالتزام بما ورد أعلاه لما فيه مصلحة المجتمع والقطاع الصحي في الإمارة

شاكرين لكم حسن تعاونكم معنا،

هذا التعميم للإجراءات التنظيمية وغير مخصص كمحتوى للنشر الإعلامي

د. نورة خميس الغيثي
وكيل دائرة الصحة





Influenza Vaccines Information

Influenza Inactivated Trivalent (IIV3)	Influenza Inactivated High-Dose Trivalent (IIV3 HD)
Brand Name	Brand Name
Vaxigrip	Fluzone High-Dose Trivalent
Description	Description
Contains 15 mcg hemagglutinin (HA) per 0.5ml dose of the following strains: - A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) pdm09 – like (A/Victoria/4897/2022, IVR-238) - A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like strain (A/Croatia/10136RV/2023, X-425A) - B/Austria/1359417/2021-like strain (B/Michigan/01/2021, wild type)	Contains 60 mcg hemagglutinin (HA) per 0.7ml dose of the following strains: - A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1) pdm09 – like (A/Victoria/4897/2022, IVR-238) - A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like strain (A/Croatia/10136RV/2023, X-425A) - B/Austria/1359417/2021-like strain (B/Michigan/01/2021, wild type)
Indication	Indication
Individuals aged 6 months and above.	Adults aged 65 years and above.
Schedule	Schedule
6 months to <9 years: - One single dose (0.5ml) if flu vaccine received previously. - Two doses given at least four weeks apart for children who are getting a flu vaccine for the first time. ≥ 9 years - One dose (0.5ml).	65 years of age and older: - One single dose (0.7ml) to be administered as a single intramuscular injection.
Contraindications and Precautions	
- Children younger than 6 months. - People with severe allergic reaction (e.g., anaphylaxis) to any component of the vaccine or to a previous dose of the vaccine. - People who had Guillain–Barré syndrome (GBS) < 6 weeks after a previous dose of influenza vaccine. - People with moderate or severe acute illness with or without fever.	





Notes
- Continue to give the vaccine to unvaccinated people throughout the influenza season (including when influenza activity is present in the community) and at other times when the risk of influenza exists. - People with severe allergic reaction to eggs, can be vaccinated under the supervision of the healthcare providers who are able to recognize and treat allergic reactions quickly. - Healthcare providers should be familiar with identifying immediate-type allergic reactions, including anaphylaxis, and be competent in treating these events at the time of vaccine administration. - Influenza Inactivated Trivalent (IIV3) vaccines can be given if Influenza Inactivated Trivalent (IIV3 HD) vaccine is not available in the visited HCF or clinic.
Eligible Categories for Influenza Vaccination
▪ People who request the vaccine to protect themselves. ▪ Adults aged 65 years and above. ▪ School-aged Children (5-18 years). ▪ Children younger than 5 years. ▪ Close contacts of influenza positive cases. ▪ Pregnant Women. ▪ Hajj and Umrah pilgrims. ▪ Residents of long-term care facilities ▪ Healthcare Workers*. ▪ People with immunocompromising conditions / treatments (such as HIV, receiving chemotherapy or steroids, or malignancy). ▪ People with the following conditions: - Diabetes. - Chronic cardiovascular disease. - Chronic lung disease (including asthma). - Metabolic disorders. - Asplenia (including elective splenectomy and persistent complement component deficiencies). - Chronic liver disease. - Kidney failure, end stage renal disease, recipients of hemodialysis. - Morbid obesity (BMI of 40 or more). - Neurologic and neurodevelopment conditions - People younger than 19 years old on long-term aspirin- or salicylate-containing medications.
* Healthcare Workers: Are all individuals working in the healthcare facility and trainees such as physicians, nurses, emergency medical personnel, dental professionals and students, medical and nursing students, laboratory technicians, pharmacists, hospital volunteers, and administrative staff.





Seasonal Influenza Laboratory testing Guide and Antiviral Treatment Recommendations

Mild/Uncomplicated Suspected Influenza/ILI Case:

■ Sudden onset of symptoms and at least **one** of the below systemic symptoms:

- Fever – Malaise - Headache - Myalgia

AND at least **one** of the below respiratory symptoms:

- Cough – Sore Throat - Shortness of Breath

Severe Acute Respiratory Illness (SARI)/Complicated Suspected Influenza Case:

Any Severe Progressive Respiratory disease

An Acute Respiratory infection with

- History of fever or measured temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ - Cough

- With onset within last 10 days **AND**

- Condition requires hospitalization

Case is in high risk group**
and/or
has progressive illness

No

Yes

Laboratory testing is **not**
indicated

Laboratory testing is
indicated

***Start Antiviral treatment immediately- Don't wait for lab result**

- **Treat the patient with Antiviral***
- Close follow up
- Return to care within 72hrs if no improvement

**List of High Risk Groups:

- Children younger than 5
- Adults 65 years of age and older
- Pregnant women and women up to two weeks postpartum
- Residents of nursing homes and other long-term care facilities
- People who have medical conditions including:
 - Asthma
 - Neurological and neurodevelopmental conditions including cerebral palsy, epilepsy, stroke, intellectual disability, moderate to severe developmental delay, muscular dystrophy, or spinal cord injury.
 - Chronic lung disease (such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease [COPD] and cystic fibrosis)
 - Heart disease such as congenital heart disease, congestive heart failure and coronary artery disease
 - Blood disorders (such as sickle cell)
 - Endocrine disorders such as diabetes
 - Kidney disorders
 - Liver disorders
 - Metabolic disorders such as inherited metabolic and mitochondrial disorders
 - Weakened immune system due to disease or medication or cancer, or those on chronic steroids)
 - People younger than 19 years of age who are receiving long-term aspirin therapy
 - Extreme obesity (body mass index [BMI] of 40 or more

*Antiviral Treatments Recommendations:

When making antiviral treatment decisions, clinicians should consider the following:

- **Oral Oseltamivir:** Preferred for pregnant and breastfeeding individuals; Recommended for severe cases in all ages. *If child is younger than 3 months old, use of oseltamivir for chemoprophylaxis is not recommended unless situation is judged critical*
- **Zanamivir** (Inhaled powder): is recommended for the treatment of influenza in persons aged 7 years and older, and for the prevention of influenza in persons aged 5 years and older **Not recommended for individuals with asthma or COPD**
- **Peramivir** is an intravenous antiviral agent used to treat acute uncomplicated influenza in patients aged 2 years and older who are shown to be symptomatic for no more than two days.
- **Zanamivir or Peramivir** are the recommended antiviral treatment for severely ill patients who are highly suspected or confirmed to have oseltamivir- resistant virus infection.
- **Oral Baloxavir:** Used in otherwise healthy children 5 yrs and older. approved for post-exposure prophylaxis for people aged 5 years and older. Dosage is the same as for treatment. Not recommended in pregnant women, breastfeeding women, outpatients with complicated or progressive illness, severely immunosuppressed people, or hospitalized patients

For more details on Antiviral medications please refer to Circular No. (12/2025) Management of Seasonal Influenza Cases and Exposed Contacts

