



## Australian Government

### Department of Health

CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER

#### **Early advice on the 2016 National Immunisation Program influenza vaccine**

Dear Colleague

Vaccination remains the best protection we have against influenza. You, as a vaccination provider, play a key role in informing the community about risks from influenza and of the importance of influenza vaccination. Thank you for your continued support for the National Seasonal Influenza Program.

Key features of the 2016 National Immunisation Program influenza vaccine include that:

- Influenza vaccines will be available from early April 2016, subject to vaccination supply.
- Two age-specific quadrivalent influenza vaccines will be available free of charge to eligible people under the National Immunisation Program.
- Both quadrivalent influenza vaccines and trivalent influenza vaccines are available for purchase on the private market.

I have enclosed a fact sheet with further, early advice on the 2016 National Immunisation Program influenza vaccines. I will write to you again in March with further details about the Program, along with promotional posters for you to put up in your practice or clinic.

The Department of Health will also produce consumer fact sheets, including one specifically for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people. These fact sheets will be available to download from the Immunise Australia website.

Please share this information with others in your practice, including locums, who administer or prescribe vaccines.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Christopher J. Baggoley'.

**Professor Chris Baggoley**

*12 February 2016*