

Enquiries to: Immunisation Unit
Communicable Diseases
Branch

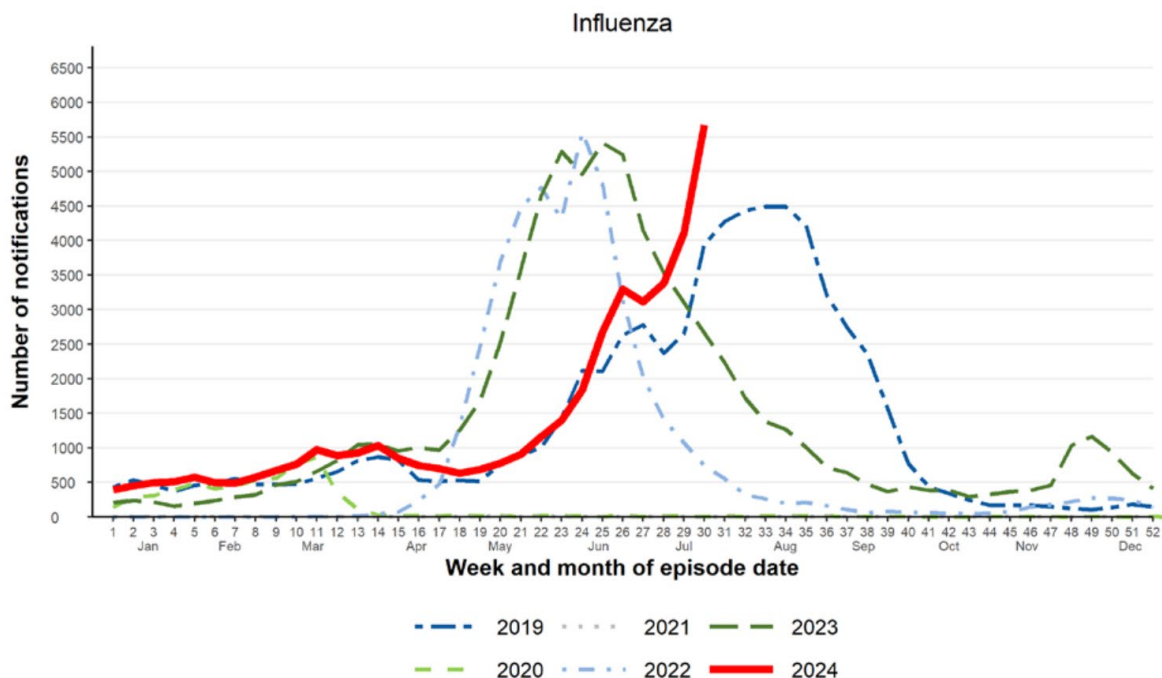
Queensland Health

Queensland Public Health and
Scientific Services
Telephone: 3328 9724

IT'S NOT TOO LATE TO FLU VACCINATE

Dear Colleagues,

Influenza is on the rise. Currently, 23% of flu cases are in school aged children. For the first time this year, we have more public hospital beds occupied by people with influenza than COVID-19. Current predictions suggest the peak of cases is still several weeks away and it is not too late to vaccinate.



Vaccination remains the most effective way to protect against severe disease from influenza. Our current data shows that vaccination has offered significant protection in avoiding hospital admissions, with over 80% of people admitted to hospital this year with influenza unvaccinated. I strongly encourage you to ask your students, school families, and staff, **Have you had your flu vaccination?** So far only 13% of Queensland school age children have received a 2024 influenza vaccine. As always you should encourage students and staff to stay home if they are unwell, practice good hand hygiene and get vaccinated.

Staff, students and families can access free flu vaccination from primary care providers including community pharmacies, General Practices and Council Clinics. Please ensure this message is communicated to all members of your network.

You can find more information about influenza and the importance of vaccination on our [Vaccination Matters webpage](#).

Thank you for your support and continued commitment to the health of Queensland children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. McDougall".

Dr Catherine McDougall
Queensland Chief Health Officer
31 July 2024