

News Release

Date released: Tuesday 23 April 2024

Gold Coasters urged to roll up sleeves during World Immunisation Week 24-30 April

A concerted push to have the Gold Coast community protected from influenza is underway.

It continues to roll out in the wake of recent Queensland Health data revealing that 11 people have died from influenza since the beginning of this year with 700 more hospitalised from 7000 recorded cases.

And for the second year in a row, confirmed influenza cases across the nation in the first three months of the year have risen considerably, this year by almost 30 per cent against the same time in 2023.

Broadbeach GP and Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) Deputy Board Chair Dr Ka-Kiu Cheung says people shouldn't put their health at risk by delaying their annual vaccination.

"The flu season is right on our doorstep, and these latest figures are concerning," Dr Cheung said.

"This week is the World Health Organisation's 2024 World Immunisation Week (24-30 April), so there's no better time to act.

"We recommend that Gold Coasters from the age six months get an influenza vaccination every year, and now is the best time of the year to do this."

Dr Cheung said flu season on the Gold Coast generally runs from May to October, peaking around August, so the time is right for everyone to roll up a sleeve and boost their defences.

"Now is the time to be vaccinated to reduce the risk of serious influenza illness during the colder months.

"The vaccinations are free, and it's as simple as visiting your GP or local pharmacist or a pop-up community clinic.

"And with COVID-19 still circulating in our community and 24 deaths in Queensland already this year, a free vaccination or a booster for that at the same time makes plenty of sense," she said.

ENDS

For further information:

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"Building one world class health system for the Gold Coast."

Gold Coast Primary Health Network would like to acknowledge and pay respect to the land and the traditional practices of the families of the Yugambeh Language Region of South East Queensland and their Elders past, present and emerging.

Newsroom reference for national first quarter statistics:

Latest statistics in quarter one in 2024 from the Australian Government Department of Health – National Notifiable Disease Surveillance System (NNDSS) - had 24,019 laboratory confirmed reportable influenza cases compared to 18,583 cases for the same time in 2023. This is an increase of 29.25%.

<https://www.immunisationcoalition.org.au/now-is-the-time-for-your-influenza-vaccination-act-today/#:~:text=Latest%20statistics%20in%20quarter%20one,is%20an%20increase%20of%2029.25%25.>

Background:

Gold Coast Primary Health Network (GCPHN) is an independent, not-for-profit organisation, funded by the Australian Government's Department of Health and Aged Care.

We are committed to building a healthy, connected, and resilient community. One of the ways we do this is by providing resources and information for the Gold Coast community about how to access local health services.

Our funded services include Mental Health, Primary Care, and Aged Care, among others.

Visit: gcpn.org.au



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