

Influenza Vaccine Declination Form

- Yearly influenza (flu) vaccination is recommended for all staff in aged care facilities.¹ This includes administrative staff, doctors, nurses, carers, therapists, religious workers, cleaning and kitchen personnel, volunteers, and temporary and part-time workers.
- Flu is a serious respiratory illness that kills hundreds of people in Australia each year.¹
- Healthcare workers have a higher risk of getting the flu as they are more likely to come into contact with the virus because of their work.²
- Staff of aged care facilities can spread the flu to their residents, family, friends and colleagues.
- Elderly people, such as residents in aged care facilities, are at increased risk of severe flu complications including death.³
- Even without symptoms, a person can still spread the flu virus to others. Infected individuals are infectious 24 hours before symptoms begin and for five to seven days after becoming unwell.
- Each year a new flu vaccine is developed. It protects against the strains of flu which are expected to cause the most flu illness that year. Also, protection from the vaccine is greatest in the three to four months following vaccination.¹ This is why annual flu vaccination is recommended.
- Although the flu vaccination does not provide complete protection against the flu, annual vaccination offers best protection against the flu and its complications.¹

I am eligible to receive the flu vaccine but do not want to have it for the reason documented below. I acknowledge the above facts about flu. I am aware that many of the residents in this facility are at increased risk of serious complications from flu:

I am not eligible to receive the influenza (flu) vaccine because:

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Name: _____ Position: _____

*👉 You can change your mind at any time and get the flu vaccine. Although the ideal time to be vaccinated is prior to the flu season, infections occur all year round. **It is never too late to be vaccinated.***

¹ Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation (ATAGI). *The Australian immunisation handbook* 10th ed (2017 update). Canberra: Australian Government Department of Health, 2017.

² Kuster SP, Shah PS, Coleman BL, et al. Incidence of Influenza in Healthy Adults and Healthcare Workers: A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis. *PLoS ONE* 2011. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0026239>.

³ Li-Kim-Moy J, Yin JK, Patel C, et al. Australian vaccine preventable disease epidemiological review series: Influenza 2006 to 2015. *Communicable Diseases Intelligence* 2016;40:E482-95.