

## 2024 Influenza and COVID vaccinations – available from 15<sup>th</sup> April 2024

PARK FAMILY PRACTICE IS LAUNCHING OUR WINTER VACCINATION PROGRAMME FOR 2024. Please see relevant information below:

### FLU VACCINE

**Q. Should I get the flu vaccine this year?**

A. We strongly encourage all our patients to be immunised against flu – we are already seeing early cases of flu this year.

**Q. I know there's a stronger vaccine for over 65s. I'm 60-64, can I get the stronger vaccine?**

A. There is a higher dose vaccine available for this age group. It's prescription only so if you are interested in receiving this, please make an appointment to discuss this with your GP.

**Q. When should I get the flu vaccine?**

A. Annual immunisation is recommended as the influenza virus is constantly changing, and the vaccine changes accordingly. Getting vaccinated in autumn is recommended. This provides protection in time for the peak influenza season (usually in winter in most parts of Australia). However, it is never too late to vaccinate since influenza can circulate in the community all year round.

### COVID VACCINE

**Q. Am I eligible to get the COVID booster?**

A. For the COVID winter booster, you must:

- Not have had a COVID booster in the last 6 months
- Not have had a COVID infection in the last 6 months

- **Adults 75 or over – recommended every 6 months**

- **Adults 65 or over or 18-64 with immune compromise – recommended every 12 months** but can get every 6 months

- **18-64 without risk factors - not recommended** but can get every 12 months

If you are unsure whether to have booster, please make an appointment with your GP.

You can receive both a flu and COVID vaccine at the same time. Please let Reception know at time of booking that you'd like both vaccines.

**Q. Why should I get the COVID booster?**

A. It will have been some time for many patients since their last COVID vaccine, so your protection against infection will be waning at a time where infections will likely increase as we move into winter. Vaccination continues to be the best form of defense against severe illness, particularly if you are aged 75 or over.

**Q. What COVID booster are you offering?**

A. We will be administering the newest monovalent Moderna XBB.1.5 vaccine.

**Q. How will the vaccination process work this year?**

A. Our flu/COVID clinics will be by appointment only. Reception will give you a time slot to attend.

**Q. When will the clinics run?**

A. From 15th April 2023 at the following times:

- **Tuesday: 2.30-4.00pm**
- **Friday: 9.00-10.30am**

**Q. Who can attend the clinics this year?**

A. Any patients over the age of 8.

**PLEASE NOTE: For patients under 8, a doctor's appointment is required.** We recommend families with children under 8 attend a doctor's appointment so you can all be immunised at the same time. We request 1 child and 1 parent in the Doctor's consulting room at any one time.

**Q. What are the vaccine costs?**

A.

Vaccination	Vaccine cost
COVID booster	FREE
Flu vaccine	\$25 unless eligible^ for free vaccine

Eligible patients^ are:

- Those aged 65 and over,
- Children aged 6 months—under 5 yrs,
- Those with a chronic health condition which predisposes them to flu,
- Pregnant women,
- Aboriginal/Torres Strait Islander people from aged 6 months.

\*If attending a Doctor's appointment outside of the flu clinic, this may incur a consultation fee – billing is at the discretion of the Doctor.

**PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND ANY APPOINTMENT IF YOU ARE EXPERIENCING ANY COLD/FLU LIKE SYMPTOMS**

*The information provided in this fact sheet is provided for general purposes only and is not intended to be specific medical advice. For information specific to your circumstances, please consult a general practitioner.*