

From: Lee lksfong@gmail.com  
Subject: RE: Re: [HunterGP] Flu vax shortage  
Date: 1 May 2020 at 7:18 am  
To: huntergp@googlegroups.com

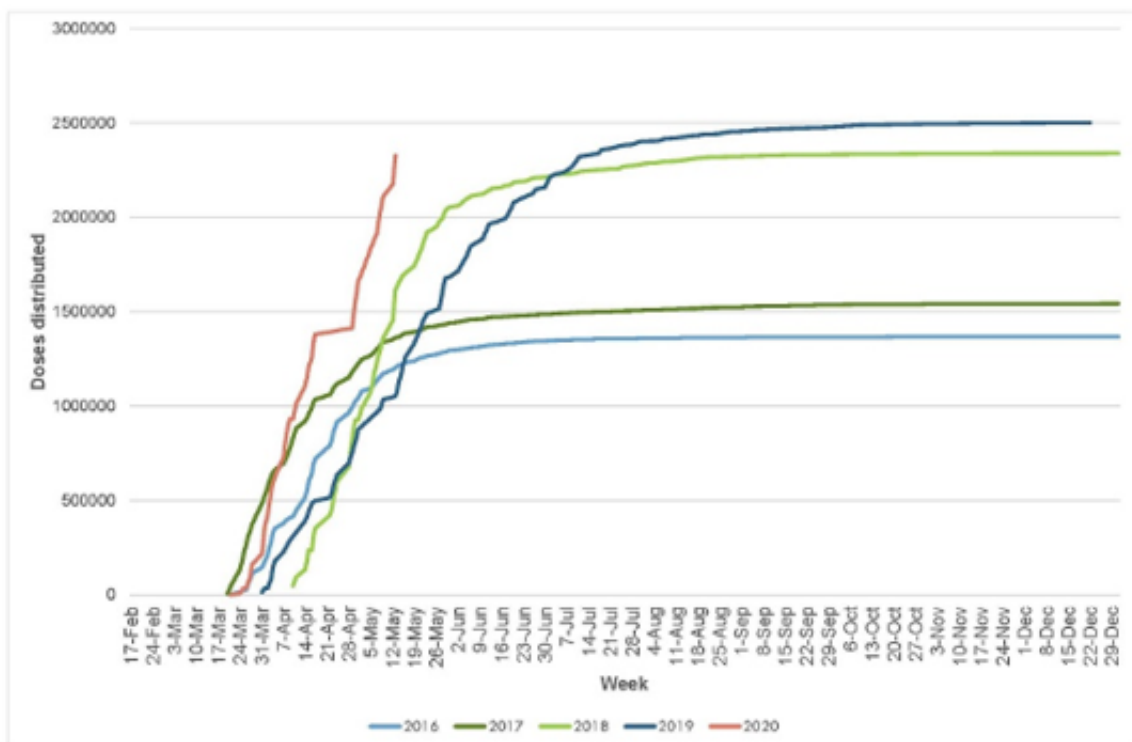


Demand for influenza vaccination is higher than ever. However, in a RACGP survey put out last week, with 1000 respondents, 50% said they didn't have enough to meet practice needs – which means 50% **did** have enough, and of those, presumably some (for a whole variety of possible reasons) have **more** than enough.

The push to immunise early has meant that there's been an unprecedented surge in "early" vaccinations, and [the amount of vaccine distributed in NSW already this year](#):

- Is already **50% more** than was delivered in the whole of 2016 or 2017,
- currently at a level that wasn't reached until about August in 2018, and about July in 2019,
- from the start of distribution on 30/3/20 through to 30/4/20, has delivered 2.49 million doses, compared to 1.3 million doses at the same time in 2019.

## Graph: Cumulative influenza vaccine distribution in NSW, 2016 to 2020



Re: national stock, [as of 19/4/20](#) (NB there's some detail missing in this info which means the numbers don't quite add up, and I've made a few assumptions to try and make sense of it) it looks like:

- 13.8 million vaccines have been released by the TGA
- Of this:

- Around 7.9 million is for the private market (non-NIP) -> GPs and Pharmacy
  - Around 5.9 million is NIP -> GPs
- An additional ~3 million vaccines have been ordered:
  - Bringing total NIP vaccines to 8.6 million
  - Of this Fluad Quad makes up over 4 million doses
  - This additional supply is scheduled to arrive over May/June, but it sounds like mostly in June
- Another 150,000 vaccines have been purchased from a private source to try and help with demand in May, but it's known this will not be enough to meet demand (*communication from Charlotte Hespe*).

How do we know where available vaccine stocks are? Knowing there is uneven distribution vs actual use, NSW Health has emailed all practices on their (NSW Vaccine Centre) list to ask us what our supply situation is like, and has compiled [this list](#) (which is available on [this page](#)).

As you can see, the list is far from comprehensive. For some reason, there are almost no 23XX postcode practices on it. But from what is there, you can see that the vast majority of practices that have responded are saying they do have sufficient NIP stocks, including for >65s. It really feels like we have a significant problem with distribution between practices.

In correspondence with Ass Prof Charlotte Hespe, who is the RACGP NSW/ACT Board Chair and NSW Ministry COVID-19 GP Strategy/Advocacy Lead, as of a couple of days ago, she is following up to see if:

- That list of General Practices and their vaccination stock can be regularly updated/maintained
- General Practices on that list can also indicate if they have stock in excess of their requirements (esp Fluad Quad), thus:
  - Enabling other practices to refer their over 65s to them, OR
  - (preferably) enabling transfer of Fluad Quad stocks from practices that don't need it to practices that do need it.

We will follow up with the Newcastle Hunter Valley Pharmacy Association to see if there's something similar happening in their patch.

Cheers,  
Lee

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

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**From:** [caitlin raschke](#)  
**Sent:** Friday, 1 May 2020 2:18 AM  
**To:** [huntergp@googlegroups.com](mailto:huntergp@googlegroups.com)  
**Subject:** Re: [HunterGP] Flu vax shortage

We've been told that we can't expect the next delivery of over 65s vaccines till June - yes: June- and the under 65s are weeks away.

Lots of unhappy campers.

A pharmacy told me they have no supply and 100 people on a waiting list to receive one.

A patient whose job takes him to nursing homes and who has therefore to have the vaccine rang around lots of pharmacies before he found one that has a supply.

And yet I saw an article in ? The New Daily where Hunt and manufacturers said 13million doses made and only ?3million given so far.

Sheesh.



**From:** huntergp@googlegroups.com <huntergp@googlegroups.com> on behalf of drjenniferbriggs@westnet.com.au <drjenniferbriggs@westnet.com.au>

**Sent:** Monday, 27 April 2020 5:08 PM

**To:** huntergp@googlegroups.com <huntergp@googlegroups.com>

**Subject:** Re: [HunterGP] Flu vax shortage

Write to MR Hunt and ask for his advice. While you're at it, ask him why this is happening yet again.

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