

# MEDIA RELEASE

TUES 19 MAY 2026

## Mist opportunities: AMA Queensland welcomes flu vaccine nasal spray expansion

Doctors have welcomed the expansion of the free FluMist vaccine to all Queenslanders aged 2 to 17. The nasal spray was already available for to 2-to-5-year-olds as part of the Queensland government's free flu vaccination program.

"This is a sensible move that will encourage more families to get their children vaccinated," AMA Queensland Immediate Past President Dr Nick Yim said.

"Many kids are scared of needles, and this nasal spray delivery can make the process easier on both them and their parents."

Dr Yim said it was imperative more Queenslanders got the annual jab.

"Last year flu infection rates skyrocketed, putting extra pressure on emergency departments," he said.

"Some hospitals even had to pause planned surgeries as flu and COVID-19 cases stretched resources.

"We do not want to see a repeat of that once winter starts in just a few weeks."

Between 1 March and 3 May this year, only 892,590 Queenslanders received their flu vaccination, down from 913,840 during the same time in 2025 and 974,830 in 2024.

"We know vaccination fatigue is a real issue in the community, but this simple measure saves lives," Dr Yim said.

"Most patients who present to hospital with serious complications from influenza haven't been vaccinated, so it really is the best way to protect you and your loved ones."

Queenslanders are encouraged to see their trusted GP to discuss vaccination.