

Singapore approves first needle-free flu vaccine FluMist Trivalent by AstraZeneca

19 November 2025 | News

FluMist Trivalent, approved by HSA to prevent influenza caused by virus subtypes A (H1N1, H3N2) and B/Victoria



A new intranasal influenza vaccine has been launched in Singapore, offering a needle-free option for individuals aged two to 49 years. Developed by AstraZeneca, the vaccine, known as **FluMist Trivalent**, has been approved by the Health Sciences Authority (HSA) for the prevention of influenza caused by virus subtypes A (H1N1, H3N2) and B/Victoria.

Administered as a simple nasal spray, the vaccine provides an alternative for those hesitant about needles, potentially increasing vaccination rates. It is the first and only intranasal influenza vaccine available in Singapore, with similar options already in use in countries like the US and Britain.

Dr Leong Hoe Nam, an infectious disease specialist at Mount Elizabeth Novena Hospital, emphasized that removing the barrier of needles could significantly boost immunization uptake. "When more people are protected, we can better safeguard our most vulnerable and ease the burden of serious flu complications on our healthcare system," he said.

AstraZeneca noted that common side effects of the vaccine include a runny or stuffy nose, sore throat in adults, and mild fever in young children. While the intranasal vaccine offers a promising option, it is not without limitations.

Adjunct Associate Professor Chan Poh Chong, head of the division of general ambulatory paediatrics and adolescent medicine at the National University Hospital, highlighted that the vaccine is unsuitable for children under two years old, those with recurrent wheezing or asthma, and individuals with weakened immune systems. The introduction of this vaccine provides a new option for individuals, particularly children, who may be afraid of needles but still need protection against influenza.