

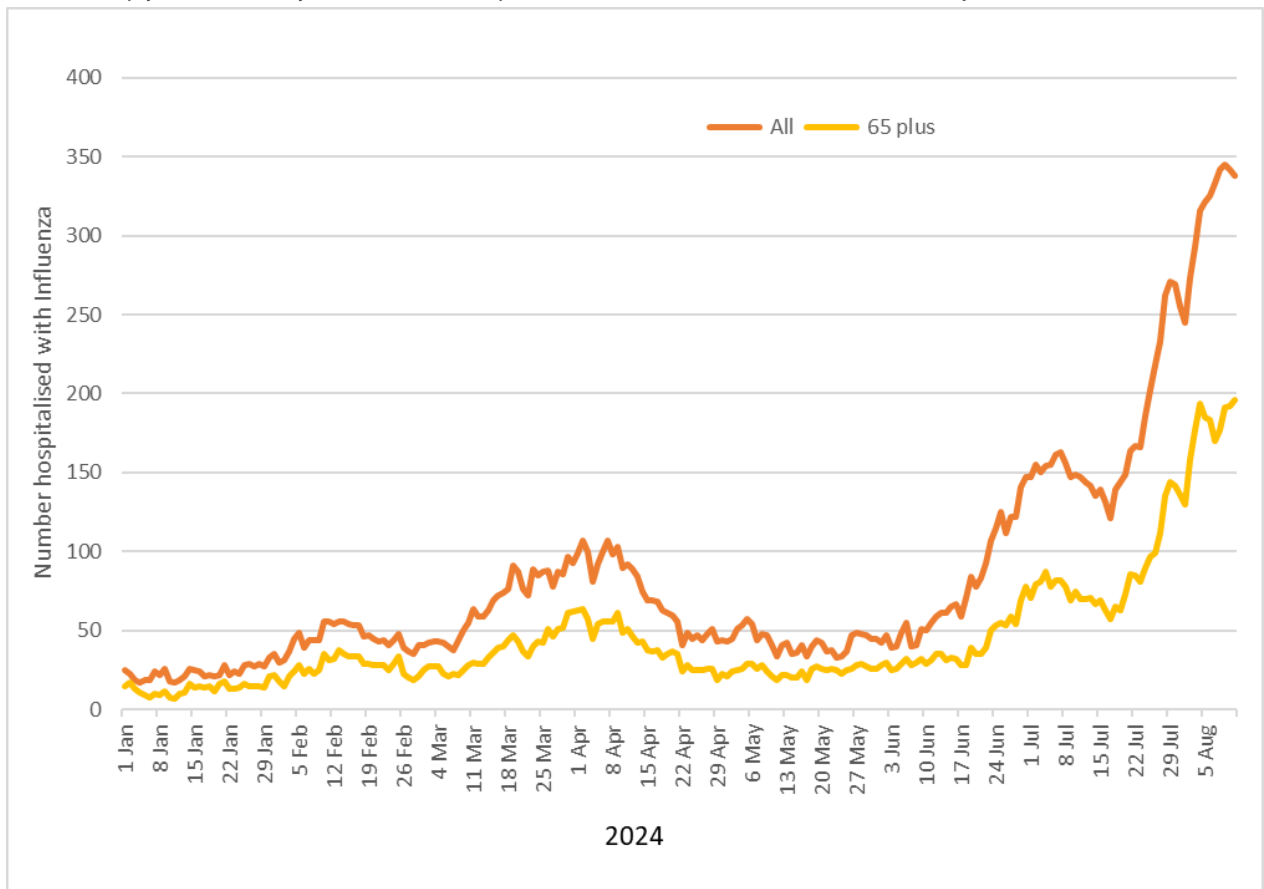
Residential care facilities: Acute respiratory infections (ARI)

August 2024 General Communique Communicable Disease Branch

Influenza update

Influenza cases have increased significantly in recent weeks.

Number of persons hospitalised with Influenza in Queensland since 1 January 2024



All residential care facilities should be **activating their influenza preparedness plans** and ensuring their **outbreak response plans** are ready to activate as needed.

Follow these key messages:

- Ensure all your **residents and staff** have had their **FREE** influenza vaccine and are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations for 2024.
- **Exclude staff and visitors** when sick.
- **Be vigilant for infected residents and implement outbreak response plans early.**
- **Ensure resident orders for antivirals are current, as appropriate.**
- If residents are unwell, isolate and cohort from other residents.
- Ensure staff and residents are cleaning their hands regularly and practicing **good respiratory hygiene.**
- **Regularly clean frequently touched surfaces.**
- **Ensure good ventilation** for residents and staff.
- **Contact your local Public Health Unit if you have an influenza outbreak in your facility and follow their advice.**

Resource for residential aged care facilities:

[National Guideline for the Prevention, Control and Public Health Management of Outbreaks of Acute Respiratory Infection in Residential Aged Care Homes | Australian Government Department of Health and Aged Care](#)

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