

# Seasonal influenza vaccination programme country profile: Greece

## 2012–13 Season

### Background information

Influenza immunisation policy and general facts about Greece	
Volume indices of GDP per capita in 2011 and 2013 (EU-28=100) Source: Eurostat <sup>a</sup>	NA
Health costs as % of GDP 2011 Source: Eurostat <sup>b</sup>	NA
Total population of the country, 2011 Source: Eurostat <sup>c</sup>	10 816 286
Population ≥65, 2011 Source: Eurostat <sup>c</sup>	2 108 852 (19.5% from the total population)
Population with chronic medical conditions <65 years, 2006 Source: ECDC (based on methodology by Fleming and Eliot, 2006) <sup>d</sup>	927 000 (8.6% from the total population)
Number of live births in 2011 <sup>e</sup>	106 428 (1% from the total population)
National seasonal influenza recommendations (e.g. age and target group recommendations and guidelines)	Recommendations available
URL link to Immunisation Guidelines for Greece	<a href="http://www.moh.gov.gr">www.moh.gov.gr</a>
National Action Plan (NAP) as requested by EC	Plan not adopted
URL link to NAP	na

NA: Not available

na: Not applicable

EUROSTAT links:

<sup>a</sup>GDP per capita 2013 (accessed 15.12.2014): [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/GDP\\_per\\_capita,\\_consumption\\_per\\_capita\\_and\\_price\\_level\\_indices](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/GDP_per_capita,_consumption_per_capita_and_price_level_indices)

<sup>b</sup>Health expenditures 2011(accessed 15.12.2014): [http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/General\\_government\\_expenditure\\_on\\_social\\_protection\\_and\\_health](http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/General_government_expenditure_on_social_protection_and_health)

<sup>c</sup>Total population and those > 65 years of age 2011(accessed 15.12.2014): <https://ec.europa.eu/CensusHub2/intermediate.do?&method=forwardResult>

<sup>d</sup>Population with chronic medical conditions 2006:  
[http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/0808\\_GUI\\_Priority\\_Risk\\_Groups\\_for\\_Influenza\\_Vaccination.pdf](http://www.ecdc.europa.eu/en/publications/Publications/0808_GUI_Priority_Risk_Groups_for_Influenza_Vaccination.pdf) (Fleming, D.M. and A.J. Elliot, Estimating the risk population in relation to influenza vaccination policy. 2006 May 15; 24(20):4378-85)

<sup>e</sup> Number of live births in 2011(accessed 15.12.2014): <http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/tgm/table.do?tab=table&init=1&language=en&pcode=tps00111&plugin=1>

## Seasonal influenza vaccination recommendations and payment mechanism for vaccination

Vaccination recommendations (population groups targeted by vaccination)	
Overall population	No recommendation
Healthy children and adolescents	No recommendation
Older population groups: ≥60 years of age	Recommended
Chronic medical conditions	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Pulmonary diseases;</li> <li>- Hepatic diseases;</li> <li>- Neurologic diseases;</li> <li>- Cardiovascular diseases;</li> <li>- Renal diseases;</li> <li>- Haematological disorders;</li> <li>- Metabolic disorders;</li> <li>- Immunosuppressed individuals;</li> <li>- HIV/AIDS;</li> <li>- Long-term aspirin use (children &lt;18 years).</li> </ul>
	No recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Morbid obesity.</li> </ul>
Pregnancy-related vaccination (including post-partum women)	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For all pregnant women at any stage during pregnancy.</li> </ul>
	No recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Postpartum women if not vaccinated during pregnancy.</li> </ul>
Healthcare workers	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- To all healthcare workers</li> </ul>
Other occupational groups	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Military personnel;</li> <li>- Poultry industry workers.</li> </ul>
Population groups in closed communities	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For residents of long-term care facilities;</li> <li>- For children in boarding schools.</li> </ul>
	No recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- For prisoners;</li> </ul>
Household contacts or carer of:	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Infants &lt;6months of age;</li> <li>- Individuals with an underlying condition that places them in the high-risk category for influenza complications.</li> </ul>

Payment mechanism for vaccine and its administration for the population groups targeted by seasonal influenza vaccine		
	For vaccine	For administration
Overall population	na	na
Healthy children and adolescents	na	na
Older population groups ≥60 years of age <sup>a</sup>	National insurance scheme	National insurance scheme
Chronic medical conditions groups (by group) <sup>a</sup>	National insurance scheme	National insurance scheme
Pregnancy-related vaccination (including post-partum women) <sup>a</sup>	National insurance scheme	National insurance scheme
Healthcare workers (including staff of long-stay care facilities) <sup>a</sup>	National insurance scheme; National health service	National insurance scheme; National health service; Regional health service
Other occupational groups <sup>a</sup>	National insurance scheme; National health service;	Employer; National insurance scheme; Private practice
Population groups in closed communities <sup>a</sup>	National insurance scheme	National insurance scheme
Household contacts or care givers <sup>a</sup>	National insurance scheme	National insurance scheme

na: Not applicable

<sup>a</sup> No co-payment for vaccine and vaccine administration.

**National insurance scheme:** health contributions are paid to the insurance fund and then for this contribution there is a package of services received. It is not by default that you receive the services if you do not pay the insurance contributions.

**National health service:** taxes are paid by a citizen or resident of the country and this person is covered by the health service.

**Out of pocket:** not reimbursed, paid by receiver of vaccine.

## Vaccination coverage rates

Vaccination coverage (%) in population groups targeted by seasonal influenza vaccination the from 2008–09 to the 2012–13 influenza season by method of data collection (administrative and /or survey)										
Population group	Influenza season									
	2008–09		2009–10		2010–11		2011–12		2012–13	
	Admin.	Surv.	Admin.	Surv.	Admin.	Surv.	Admin.	Surv.	Admin.	Surv.
Overall population	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children/adolescents	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Older population groups: ≥60 years of age	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Chronic medical conditions groups	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pregnant women <sup>a</sup>	-	-	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Healthcare workers	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	19 <sup>c</sup> /11.5 <sup>d</sup>	na
Staff in long-stay care facilities <sup>b</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA
Residents in long stay care facilities <sup>b</sup>	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA

na: Not applicable

NA: Not available

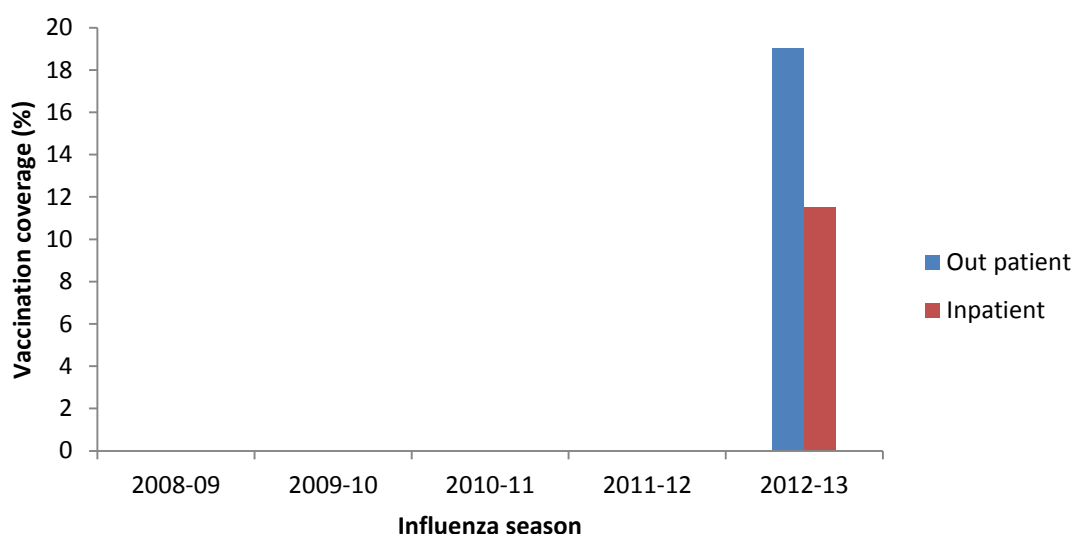
<sup>a</sup> VENICE started to collect vaccination coverage data for pregnant women after the A(H1N1)pdm09 (2010-11 influenza season).

<sup>b</sup> VENICE started to collect vaccination coverage data for staff and residents in long-stay care facilities for the influenza season 2011-12.

<sup>c</sup> Out-patient healthcare settings.

<sup>d</sup> In-patient healthcare settings.

**Figure 1. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare workers in the 2012–13 influenza season**



## Methods to monitor vaccination coverage, safety and effectiveness

Monitoring of vaccination coverage during the 2012–13 influenza season	
Method used to monitor influenza vaccination coverage	
Administrative method only	
Method used (administrative, survey) to monitor vaccination coverage by population group	
Administrative	Survey
Healthcare workers	na

na: Not applicable

Details on administrative method used (medical records vs. immunisation registry; manual vs. electronic) by population group			
Medical records		Immunisation registry	
Manual	Electronic	Manual	Electronic
No	No	No	No

Administrative method HCWs from NHS registries.

Numerator assessment		
Pharmaceutical data	Administrative data	Frequency of numerator assessment
Not used	Healthcare workers	Annually

Denominator assessment by population groups and data source	
Population group	Data source for population group
Entire population	na
Children and adolescents	na
Adults	Not used
Individuals with medical/risk conditions (clinical risk groups)	Not used
Pregnant women	Not used
Healthcare workers	Administrative method healthcare workers from NHS registries
Essential public sector workers	Not used
Prisoners	Not used
Residents of long-term care institutions	Not used
Educational institutions	Not used
Other, please specify	Not used

na: Not applicable

Details for survey method used for the 2012–13 influenza season			
Type of the survey	Survey mode	Sampling strategy	Sample size
na	na	na	na

na: Not applicable

Scientific studies conducted for vaccination coverage; vaccine safety and vaccine effectiveness
Not performed on a regular basis

Vaccine safety monitoring (adverse events following immunisation AEFV)				
Data collected at the national and at the regional level	Data linkage with immunisation registry	Details collected	Status of reporting	AEFV reported to
Yes	Not possible	Yes, case based data including age, sex and suspected symptoms should be reported	Mandatory	National Agency for Medicines (EOF)

Monitoring of influenza vaccine break-through <sup>a</sup> infections in vaccinated individuals		
Data collected	Data linkage with immunisation registry	Details collected
No such system of monitoring exists	na	na

<sup>a</sup> Break-through infection is defined as laboratory-confirmed influenza infection >14 days after seasonal influenza vaccination in the current season (i.e. vaccine failure).

## Vaccine procurement and delivery

Influenza vaccine procurement and delivery, 2012–13 influenza season		
Number of doses		
Purchased	Distributed	Used
NK	NK	NK

NK: Not known

Type of vaccine/Product Name	Target groups
<b>Trivalent inactivated non-adjuvanted vaccines (TIV)</b>	
Used	
Abbott; GlaxoSmithKline; Sanofi Pasteur; Novartis (non adjuvanted)	Older adults (e.g. ≥60/65 years); Those with medical condition/s; Pregnant women; Residents of long stay care facilities; Health Care Workers; Other occupational groups
<b>Trivalent inactivated adjuvanted vaccines (aTIV)</b>	
Not used	
<b>Trivalent live attenuated nasal vaccine (LAIV)</b>	
Not used	
<b>Quadrivalent attenuated nasal vaccine (LAIV)</b>	
Not used	
<b>Quadrivalent inactivated non-adjuvanted vaccine (QIV)</b>	
Not used	

## Promoting seasonal influenza vaccination

Promoting seasonal influenza vaccination during the 2012–13 influenza season	
Promotion activities with the general public and healthcare workers	Source of information (if yes)
<b>Population over 65</b>	
Yes	TV; Newspapers; Leaflets; Posters; Website
<b>Pregnant women</b>	
Yes	TV; Newspapers; Leaflets; Posters; Website
<b>Chronic medical conditions</b>	
Yes	TV; Newspapers; Leaflets; Posters; Website
<b>Healthcare workers</b>	
Yes	TV; Leaflets; Posters; Website; Professional medical societies; National medical publications

## Use of antiviral agents for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza

Recommendations and/or guidelines (policy document) on antiviral use	
Recommendations available	
Use of antiviral agents for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza during the 2012–13 influenza season	
Use of antivirals for <u>treatment</u> for in-patients and out-patients who are at higher risk of developing influenza complications	
For in-patients who:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- have severe, complicated influenza-like illness (ILI);</li> <li>- have progressive influenza-like illness;</li> <li>- require hospitalisation due to influenza-like illness.</li> </ul>	Recommended
For out-patients who are at higher risk of developing influenza complications on the basis of their age or underlying medical conditions:	
Individuals belonging to high risk groups	Recommended
Use of antivirals for <u>post-exposure</u> prophylaxis	
Individuals with underlying conditions who belong to high risk groups for influenza complications and have been in close contact or live together with an influenza confirmed case	Recommended
For unvaccinated healthcare workers who have been in close contact with an influenza confirmed case	Recommended
Use of antivirals for <u>pre-exposure</u> prophylaxis	
For individuals who are at high risk (e.g. severely immunosuppressed patients) for influenza-related complications who cannot otherwise be protected during times when a high risk for exposure exists	No recommendation
Use of antivirals for <u>control of influenza outbreaks</u>	
For hospitalized individuals who belong to high risk groups if not previously vaccinated	Recommended
For unvaccinated healthcare staff or for health care staff who has been vaccinated less than two weeks prior to the occurrence of the outbreak	Recommended
Existence of antiviral resistance surveillance system	
Antiviral resistance surveillance system	There is an antiviral resistance surveillance system in place

Country profiles are based on the [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination in Europe](#) report produced by the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) and the Vaccine European New Integrated Collaboration Effort III (VENICE III). The data are from the seasonal influenza vaccination survey for 2012–13 season in EU/EEA countries. During the validation process in June 2015, minor changes were introduced in some country profiles. Therefore, data may be different to those available in the report.