

Seasonal influenza vaccination programme country profile: Belgium

2012–13 Season

Background information

Influenza immunisation policy and general facts about Belgium	
Volume indices of GDP per capita in 2011 and 2013 (EU-28=100) Source: Eurostat ^a	120 and 119 respectively
Health costs as % of GDP 2011 Source: Eurostat ^b	7.9%
Total population of the country, 2011 Source: Eurostat ^c	11 000 638
Population ≥65, 2011 Source: Eurostat ^c	1 883 180 (17.1% from the total population)
Population with chronic medical conditions <65 years, 2006 Source: ECDC (based on methodology by Fleming and Eliot, 2006) ^d	879 000 (8.0% from the total population)
Number of live births in 2011 ^e	128 705 (1.2%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 Belgium	http://www.health.belgium.be/internet2Prd/groups/public/@public/@shc/documents/ie2divers/19098147_fr.pdf
National Action Plan (NAP) as requested by EC	A plan was not developed, but a respective policy is in place
URL link to NAP	na
Referent for influenza at the Institute for Public Health: Dr Nathalie Bossuyt http://influenza.wiv-isp.be	

na: Not applicable

EUROSTAT links:

^aGDP 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

^bHealth expenditures 2011(accessed 15.12.2014): http://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/statistics-explained/index.php/General_government_expenditure_on_social_protection_and_health

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

^dPopulation with chronic medical conditions 2006:
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)

^e 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 ^a ≥50 years of age ≥65 years of age	Recommended
Chronic medical conditions	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Pulmonary diseases; - Neurologic diseases; - Cardiovascular diseases; - Renal diseases; - Hepatic diseases; - Haematological disorders; - Metabolic disorders; - Immunosuppressed individuals; - HIV/AIDS; - Long-term aspirin use (children <18 years).
	No recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Morbid obesity
Pregnancy-related vaccination (including post-partum women)	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For all pregnant women in the 2nd and 3rd trimester only.
	No recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Postpartum women if not vaccinated during pregnancy.
Healthcare workers	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - To all healthcare workers
Other occupational groups	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Poultry industry workers; - Swine industry workers
Population groups in closed communities	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For residents of long-term care facilities;
	No recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - For prisoners; - For children in day care centres
Household contacts or carer of:	Recommended: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Immunosuppressed individuals; - Infants <6months of age; - Individuals with chronic medical conditions
	No recommendation: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - ≥65 years of age.

a The guidelines recommend vaccine for those ≥65 years of age and they belong to the first priority group for receiving the influenza vaccine; the guidelines also mention explicitly that the vaccine is also useful for healthy persons aged 50 and older.

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 (≥ 65 years of age) ^a	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket
Chronic medical conditions groups (by group) ^a	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket
Pregnancy-related vaccination (including post-partum women) ^a	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket
Health care workers (including staff of long-stay care facilities) ^b	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket; Employer;	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket; Employer;
Other occupational groups ^a	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket; Employer	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket; Employer
Population groups in closed communities ^a	National insurance scheme; Regional health service; Out of pocket	National insurance scheme; Regional health service; Out of pocket
Household contacts or care givers ^c	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket	National insurance scheme; Out of pocket

^a Partly refunded

^b Partly refunded/sometimes fully covered by employer

^c Partly refunded in some groups.

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	21	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Children/adolescents	na	1.9	na	na	na	na	na	na	na	na
Older population groups: ≥65 years of age	NA	65.1	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Chronic medical conditions groups	NA	45	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Pregnant women ^a	-	-	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Healthcare workers	NA	35.4	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA	NA
Staff in long-stay care facilities ^b	-	-	-	-	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA
Residents in long stay care facilities ^b	-	68.7***	-	-	-	-	NA	NA	NA	NA

na: Not applicable

NA: Not available

* Calendar year 2008

**Source: National Health Interview Survey 2008 (<https://his.wiv-isp.be/SitePages/Reports.aspx>)

*** in persons aged 65 years and older

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

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

Figure 1. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among those ≥65 years of age in the 2008–09 influenza season

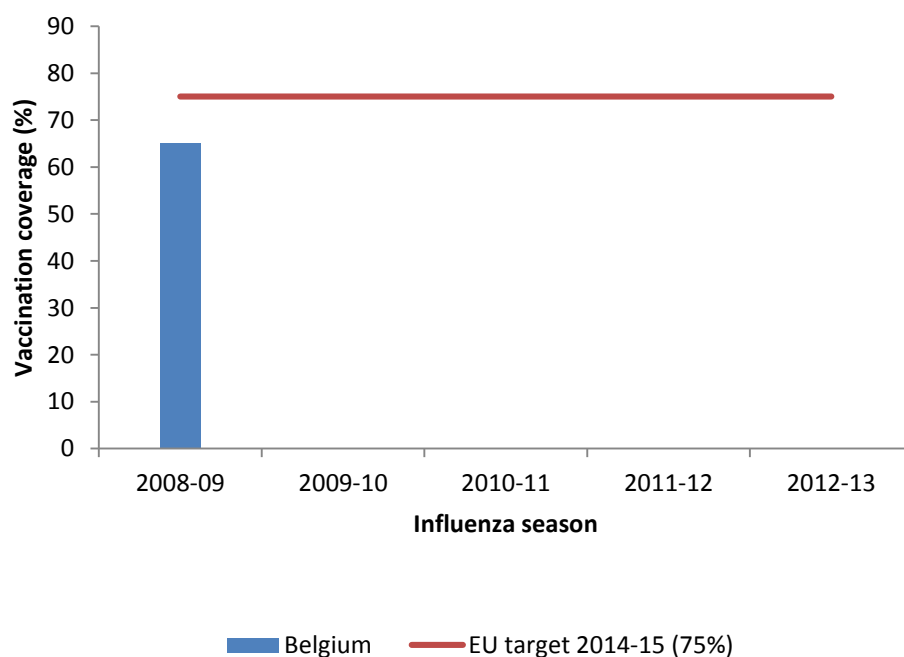


Figure 2. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among those with chronic medical conditions in the 2008–09 influenza season

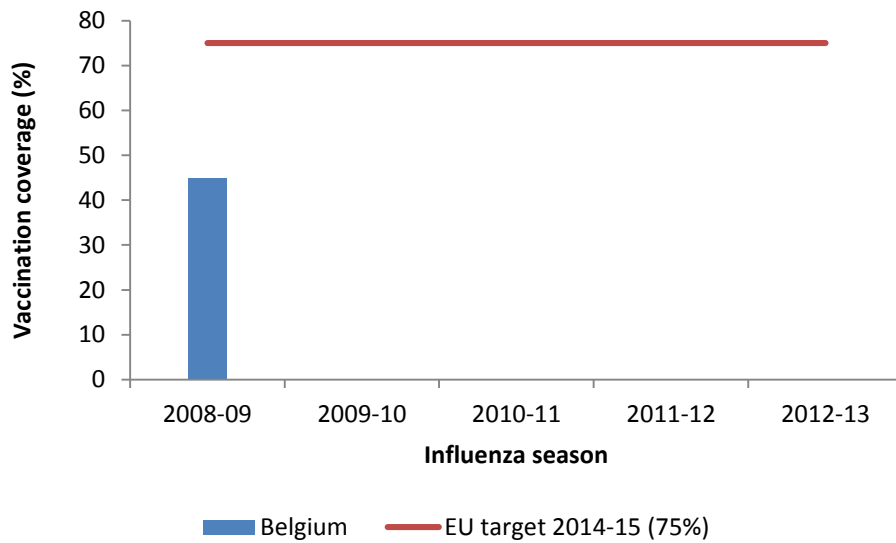


Figure 3. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among healthcare workers in the 2008–09 influenza season

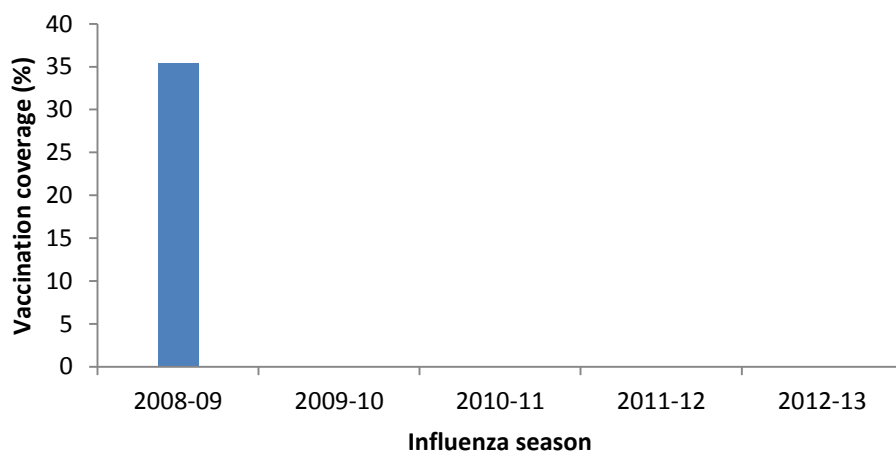
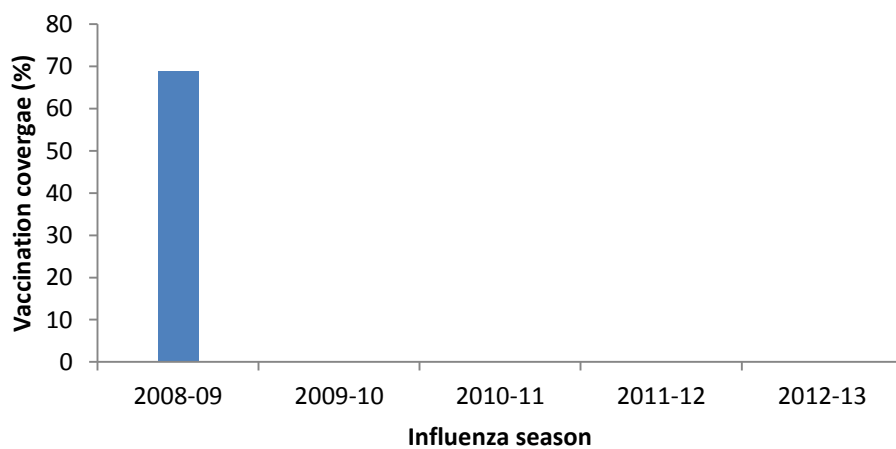


Figure 4. Seasonal influenza vaccination coverage among residents and staff of long-stay care facilities in the 2008–09 influenza season



Note: VENICE started to collect vaccination coverage data for staff and residents in long stay care facilities for the 2011–12 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	
Survey method only	

Method used (administrative, survey) to monitor vaccination coverage by population group	
Administrative	Survey
na	Entire population; Adults aged between 18 and 65 years old; Adults aged more than 65 years old Chronic medical conditions group Health care workers Residents in long-term care facilities (aged 65 years and older)

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
na	na	No	No

na: Not applicable

Numerator assessment		
Pharmaceutical data	Administrative data	Frequency of numerator assessment
Not used	na	Surveys conducted every four years

na: Not applicable

Denominator assessment by population groups and data source	
Population group	Data source for population group
Entire population	National central statistical data
Children and adolescents	National central statistical data
Adults	National central statistical data
Individuals with medical/risk conditions (clinical risk groups)	Not used
Pregnant women	Not used
Healthcare workers	Not used
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

Details for survey method used for the 2012–13 influenza season ^a			
Type of the survey	Survey mode	Sampling strategy	Sample size
Individual	In person	Probability sampling; Cluster (EPI)	10 000

^a The survey was carried out in 2013. Results will be available in 2015.

Scientific studies conducted for vaccination coverage; vaccine safety and vaccine effectiveness
At present, vaccine effectiveness is being analysed for the 2012–13, 2013–14 and 2014–15 seasons

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	No	Not specified	Not mandatory	A national general online notification of adverse effects of medicines

Monitoring of influenza vaccine break-through ^a infections in vaccinated individuals		
Data collected at the national and at the regional level	Data linkage with immunisation registry	Details collected
There is no such system	na	na

na: Not applicable

^a 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: Not known

Type of vaccine/Product Name	Target groups
Trivalent inactivated non-adjuvanted vaccines (TIV)	
Used	
Abbott; GlaxoSmithKline; Sanofi Pasteur; Novartis (non-adjuvanted) Janssen-Cilag	Older adults (e.g. ≥60/65 years); Those with medical condition/s; Pregnant women; Residents of long stay care facilities; Healthcare workers
Trivalent inactivated adjuvanted vaccines (aTIV)	
Not used	
Trivalent live attenuated nasal vaccine (LAIV)	
Not used	
Quadrivalent attenuated nasal vaccine (LAIV)	
Not used	
Quadrivalent inactivated non-adjuvanted vaccine (QIV)	
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)
General public	
Yes	Radio; Leaflets; Posters; Website
Population over 65	
Yes	Radio; Leaflets; Posters; Website
Pregnant women	
Yes	Radio; Leaflets; Posters; Website
Chronic medical conditions	
Yes	Radio; Leaflets; Posters; Website
Healthcare workers	
Yes	Posters; Website

Use of antiviral agents for treatment and chemoprophylaxis of influenza

Recommendations and/or guidelines (policy document) on antiviral use	
There is no such recommendation	
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"> - have severe, complicated influenza-like illness (ILI); - have progressive influenza-like illness; - require hospitalisation due to influenza-like illness. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 38%¹; - na - 15%¹
For out-patients who are at higher risk of developing influenza complications on the basis of their age or underlying medical conditions:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Children < 2 years; - Children < 5 years; - Adults aged ≥65 years; - Individuals belonging to risk groups. - Women who are pregnant or postpartum (within 6 weeks after delivery); - Residents of nursing homes and other chronic-care facilities. 	na
Use of antivirals for <u>post-exposure</u> prophylaxis	
For family or other close contacts of a person at higher risk for influenza complications who have not been vaccinated with influenza vaccine at the time of exposure;	na
For unvaccinated healthcare workers with occupational exposure and who did not use personal protective equipment at the time of exposure	
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	na
Use of antivirals for <u>control of influenza outbreaks</u>	
For individuals in long-term care facilities/care for immunocompromised individuals if not vaccinated or if the circulating influenza strain does not match the vaccine strains	na
For unvaccinated healthcare staff who provide care to individuals at high risk of developing complications in long-term care facilities/ care for immunocompromised patients if not vaccinated or if the circulating influenza strain does not match the vaccine strains	na
For all health care staff regardless of whether they received an influenza vaccination if the circulating influenza strain does not match the vaccine strains	na
Prisoners	na
Educational institutions	na
Existence of antiviral resistance surveillance system	
Antiviral resistance surveillance system	There is an antiviral resistance surveillance system in place

¹ Source : *surveillance of severe Acute respiratory Infections in a sentinel network of 6 hospitals. (see also "Surveillance des influenzaes sévères par un réseau d'hôpitaux sentinelles Rapport d'activité Saison 2012-2013. Bruxelles: WIV-ISP; 2015. »)*

na: not applicable

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. Results above use the same data as was available when the report was published. 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.