THERE is still time to immunise children against seasonal flu, experts say, after the Chief Medical Officer lifted the ban on two brands of vaccine.

In April, the Federal Government suspended the use of any seasonal flu vaccine in children under five after reports of a higher than usual occurrence of fever and febrile convulsions.

But investigations recently confirmed that the effect was confined to CSL's Fluvax, meaning young children could be vaccinated with Vaxigrip or Influvac, the government said.

Professor Anne Kelso, director of the WHO Collaborating Centre for Reference and Research on Influenza in Melbourne, said the flu season had begun, but notifications remained quite low.

Although it was impossible to predict the length and intensity of the season, it was likely someone vaccinated now would have the benefit of increased antibody levels against the strains currently circulating, she said.

"Even children who need two doses will make some antibodies to the first dose," she told Australian Doctor.

Clinical Professor Dominic Dwyer, a medical virologist and infectious diseases specialist at Sydney's Westmead Hospital, agreed there was still time to vaccinate patients, saying the flu season was yet to take off.

Professor Robert Booy, head of clinical research at the National Centre for Immunisation Research and Surveillance, said GPs should feel "completely confident" in the two recommended infant vaccines, noting they had a different risk profile to the CSL product.

In a statement, CSL said it supported the government's advice and was working to identify the cause of the events.

Rebecca Jenkins