

Memorandum

To: Ms Mary Day, CEO, St. James's Hospital
Ms Lucy Nugent, CEO, Tallaght University Hospital
Professor Michael O'Connell, Master, Coombe Women and Infants University Hospital
Ms Alice Kinsella, General Manager, Naas General Hospital
Mr Michael Knowles, General Manager, Midland Regional Hospital Portlaoise
Ms Noreen Hynes, General Manager, Midland Regional Hospital Tullamore

From: Mr Trevor O'Callaghan, Chief Executive Officer, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group
Ms Eileen Whelan, Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery, Dublin Midlands Hospital Group

Date: 7th October 2020

Dear Colleagues,

Amid the continuing crisis of the Covid-19 Pandemic, it is important now, more than ever before, that we continue to take all measures to protect our patients, staff and families. Hospitals are beginning their flu vaccination clinics this week and our efforts this year will focus on achieving a 100% uptake among staff, with a particularly emphasis on staff caring for patients who are considered most at risk.

The HSE is recommending all Health Care Workers get the influenza vaccine. There is a Flu E-Learning Module live on **HSELand** for all staff to review. The program will help update and educate all staff in the Health Service about the Flu Vaccine. It also answers some common concerns or questions about the vaccine. The module will take about 10 minutes to complete. Due to COVID-19 restrictions the need to maintain safe environment for staff at clinics will be of utmost importance this year.

This year the Flu vaccine is free for all HCWs and available within the hospital, from your GP and Pharmacist. We ask that if you get the Flu vaccine in another location, can you please ensure you capture the batch number and return it to your hospital so it can be incorporated into the staff database providing accurate information on the uptake of vaccination by staff. These data inform the national Flu vaccine uptake rates.

The Dublin Midlands Hospital Group (DMHG) will continue using the electronic Flu Vaccination Consent Form (FVCF) that we introduced last year. For this reason, we will not be using the HSE Swiftqueue booking system. Please ensure that all staff are fully aware of the requirement to complete this online in advance of their attendance to the Flu vaccination clinic. The link to the consent form is here <http://pmaymapsweb02.healthirl.net/fvcf>. You can only complete this form on a networked computer. Please know your personnel number as this will be an important identifier this year.

Teach Uisce an Droichid, Ionad Gnó Uisce an Droichid, Bóthar Conyngham, Dhroichead na hInse, Baile Átha Cliath D08 T9NH.

The DMHG Working Group has reconvene this year, 9th September. The main objective of this forum is to support the Flu vaccine campaign across all hospitals. It also enables sharing of initiatives and ideas which encourage uptake.. To support promotion, the National Immunisation Office (NIO) has also circulated the HSE Flu merchandise including pens, bags ,lanyards, leaflets and posters. The Communications Department, DMHG have drafted a press release and social media content to provide support on local engagement in print/online. They will also provide support with any activities on site so please link in with Fiona Burke, DMHG Comms on launch dates.

DMHG are currently ordering the following extra promotional materials, we will update you as to when you can expect delivery:

- Â· Pull-up banners (attached HCW poster to include DMHG logo)
- Â· Branded face coverings with DMHG flufighters image
- Â· New target barometer props to replace 2019 version (target numbers to reach 100%)

Healthcare workers are up to 10 times more likely to get the flu than the general population. DMHG are calling on all healthcare workers and people in at-risk groups to get the flu vaccine to protect ourselves, our patients and our families. We need to raise awareness of the dangers of Influenza. Influenza is potentially a fatal illness and its impact on the hospital systems is significant. Getting protected from Influenza is an important duty for healthcare workers, because for them, and for their patients, it is a lifesaver.

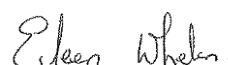
As we continue to work with Covid-19, we cannot risk any additional impact on our vulnerable patients and our staffing levels. Every individual who gets the Flu vaccine this year is supporting our frontline services to continue to provide healthcare to vulnerable and sick patients. We expect our hospitals' capacity will be challenged by the rising rates and subsequent admissions with Covid-19, and as such this year we are asking for a concerted effort on your part to minimise Influenza rates and in turn reduce Influenza related admissions by getting the Flu vaccine.

The Hospital Group remains available to you throughout this key period this year. Thank you for all your work in this regard.

Yours Sincerely,



Trevor O'Callaghan,
Chief Executive,
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group.



Eileen Whelan,
Chief Director of Nursing and Midwifery,
Dublin Midlands Hospital Group.