

Recommendations for seasonal influenza vaccine 2011/2012

The 2011/2012 seasonal influenza vaccine is strongly recommended for

- all those aged 65 years and older
- adults and children over 6 months of age with any of the following
 - chronic illness requiring regular follow up (e.g. chronic respiratory disease including cystic fibrosis, moderate or severe asthma, chronic heart disease, chronic neurological disease, diabetes mellitus, chronic liver disease, chronic neurological disease including multiple sclerosis, hereditary and degenerative disorders of the central nervous system etc)
 - those who are immunosuppressed due to disease or treatment including those with missing or non functioning spleens
- children with any condition (e.g. cognitive dysfunction, spinal cord injury, seizure disorder, or other neuromuscular disorder) that can compromise respiratory function especially those attending special schools/ day centres
- children and teenagers on long-term aspirin therapy (because of the risk of Reyes syndrome)
- those with morbid obesity i.e. Body Mass Index over 40
- **pregnant women (vaccine can be given at any stage of pregnancy)**
- healthcare workers
- residents of nursing homes, and other long stay institutions
- carers
- people who have close, regular contact with pigs, poultry or water fowl

BOLD indicates new group for 2011/2012