

August 2013

Re: Seasonal Influenza (Flu) Vaccination Campaign 2013/2014

Dear Chief Executive,

Flu is a serious viral illness that can spread rapidly and the best way to prevent it is by vaccination.

Seasonal influenza (flu) vaccination reduces infection and associated illnesses, hospitalisation and even prevents deaths.

Every year flu vaccination is strongly recommended for those aged 65 years and older, younger people with long term medical conditions, pregnant women and health care workers and carers of people in these groups.

Older people and at risk patients may not develop sufficient protection from the vaccine so it is important that all those who care for them are vaccinated. High vaccine uptakes rates among staff have been shown to reduce the serious impact of flu among residents.

However in recent years there have been a number of outbreaks of flu in hospitals resulting in severe illness and deaths in patients.

I would be grateful if you would arrange for all your health care workers and carers to be vaccinated and ensure their vaccine status is documented and encourage your at risk patients to be vaccinated.

I enclose copies of the new information leaflets and posters being used for this year's seasonal flu vaccination campaign.

If you require additional leaflets or posters or further information please contact the National Immunisation Office at (01) 867 6108 or visit our website at www.immunisation.ie

Yours sincerely



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