

August 2016

To: Each Occupational Health Physician

IMPORTANT NEWS

Re: Influenza Vaccination Campaign 2016/2017

Dear Doctor,

I am writing to update you about the 2016/2017 Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Campaign.

- There are no additional recommendations from the National Immunisation Advisory Committee as outlined in the 2016 Influenza chapter of the Immunisation Guidelines for Ireland
- Only one seasonal influenza vaccine will be in use – Inactivated Influenza vaccine (Split Virion) BP manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur which comes in packs of 10 pre filled syringes.
- There will be fortnightly deliveries to all sites from September to November to facilitate supply of influenza vaccine.
- As usual patient held vaccination record cards will be sent with all vaccine deliveries which should be completed and given to health care workers after vaccination.
- Medicine protocols for the administration of seasonal influenza vaccine and anaphylaxis management and epinephrine (adrenaline) and Guidelines for Staff for the Seasonal Influenza Peer Vaccination Programme are available at
<http://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/fluinfo/influenzahealthprofessionals.html>

As you know 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. **This is a significant patient safety issue as high vaccine uptakes rates among healthcare staff have been shown to reduce the serious impact of influenza among patients.**

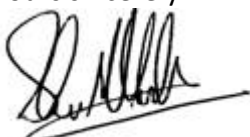
However published data has shown that while vaccine uptake among health care workers in hospitals is increasing it is still low at 27.3% and there were a number of outbreaks of influenza in hospitals in 2015/2016 resulting in severe illness and deaths in patients.

<http://www.hpsc.ie/A-Z/Respiratory/Influenza/SeasonalInfluenza/Vaccination/File,14869,en.pdf>

I enclose copies of the new information leaflets and posters for this year's campaign more of which can be ordered at www.healthpromotion.ie. Further information is available on the National Immunisation website www.immunisation.ie

Maximising uptake among at-risk groups and health care workers is critical in the prevention of morbidity and mortality and your support in this regard is greatly appreciated. If you require any further information or have any queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely



Dr Kevin Kelleher
Assistant National Director of Health and Wellbeing - Public Health & Child Health



The 2016/2017 seasonal influenza vaccine is strongly recommended for

- ◆ Persons aged 65 and older
- ◆ Those aged 6 months and older with a long-term health condition such as
 - Chronic heart disease including acute coronary syndrome
 - Chronic liver disease
 - Chronic neurological disease including multiple sclerosis, hereditary a degenerative disorders of the central nervous system
 - Chronic renal failure
 - Chronic respiratory disease, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, cystic fibrosis, moderate or severe asthma or bronchopulmonary dysplasia
 - Diabetes mellitus
 - Down syndrome
 - Haemoglobinopathies
 - Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including asplenia or splenic dysfunction
 - Morbid obesity i.e. body mass index over 40
- ◆ Children aged 6 months and older
 - 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
 - with moderate to severe neurodevelopmental disorders such as cerebral palsy and intellectual disability
 - on long-term aspirin therapy (because of the risk of Reyes syndrome)
- ◆ Pregnant women (vaccine can be given at any stage of pregnancy)
- ◆ Healthcare workers
- ◆ Residents of nursing homes and other long stay institutions
- ◆ Carers
- ◆ People with regular contact with pigs, poultry or water fowl