

News release

22 December 2009

For immediate release

Swine flu vaccination: information for parents of children over six months and under five years

A leaflet designed to provide parents and carers of children over six months and under five-years-old with important information on swine flu vaccination is now available to view and download on the NHS Kirklees website.

All children in this age range are being offered the swine flu vaccine as they are deemed to be in a 'high risk' category by the Department of Health.

Research has shown healthy children between these ages are far more likely to be hospitalised as a result of swine flu than healthy people in other age ranges.

Vaccination against swine flu for children over six months and under five-years-old means they have the best possible protection against the swine flu virus and its possible complications. It also protects their family and other people who are in close contact and provides defence against future waves of infection caused by the virus.

Dr Judith Hooper, Director of Public Health for NHS Kirklees and Kirklees Council, said: "It is strongly recommended that children over six months and under five-years-old be vaccinated against swine flu.

"The Department of Health leaflet gives vital information to parents and carers of children in this age group about why vaccination is important, which vaccine will be administered and how many doses are required.

www.kirklees.nhs.uk

“I would urge all parents and carers of children between these ages to read the leaflet carefully and seriously consider vaccination.”

Ends

Notes to News Desk

To view and download the ‘Swine flu vaccination: information for parents of children over six months and under five years’ leaflet visit:

http://www.kirklees.nhs.uk/fileadmin/documents/Swine_Flu/Leaflets/2009-12-14-SF-vaccination-LEAFLET-swine-flu-child-vaccination.pdf

The symptoms of swine flu are very similar to the symptoms of normal flu. If you have swine flu you will have a high temperature, which is around 38°C (around 100°F) or above. You might also have two or more of the following symptoms:

- Cough
- Sore throat
- Runny nose
- Severe tiredness
- Loss of appetite
- Pain in muscles and joints
- Headaches

Some people might also have diarrhoea or vomiting.

People in the higher risk groups include:

- Pregnant women

People with:

- Chronic lung disease or had drug treatment for asthma in the past three years
- Cystic fibrosis
- A suppressed immune system (whether caused by disease or treatment)
- Diabetes

- Sickle cell disease
- Chronic neurological disease e.g multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, stroke, muscular dystrophy
- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease

As well as:

- Children aged under five and people aged over 65

NHS Kirklees is the main NHS body responsible for healthcare and health improvement for people living in the district. NHS Kirklees commissions - that is plans and pays for - any health services you might need. This includes hospitals, ambulances, mental health and other specialist services. NHS Kirklees also agree contracts with local GPs, dentists, pharmacists and optometrists to deliver high-quality services for local people.

**For further information please contact the NHS Kirklees Communications team on
01484 466 233 or email communications@kirklees.nhs.uk**