

**SWINE FLU
INFORMATION**

www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu

0800 1 513 513

**SWINE FLU
VACCINATION:
information for
parents of children
over six months
and under five
years old**

Flu. Protect yourself and others.



What about people with egg allergies?

The Celvapan vaccine is not prepared using eggs, so your child should have this vaccine if they have a severe allergy to eggs.

The Pandemrix vaccine is prepared in hens' eggs in the same way that seasonal flu vaccines are. It should not be given to people who have had a confirmed anaphylactic reaction (experiencing shock or difficulty breathing) after being exposed to egg products.

There are two vaccines – which one will my child be given?

The majority of children are likely to be given Pandemrix. However, if they have had a confirmed anaphylactic reaction to eggs, they will be given Celvapan.

How many doses of vaccine will my child need?

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has advised that the dosage for children aged over six months and below ten years should be just one dose of Pandemrix (using half an adult dose) unless the child is immunosuppressed or has an immune deficiency. Children in this age group who are immunosuppressed or have an immune deficiency should receive two doses of Pandemrix (using half an adult dose) given at least three weeks apart. Parents are advised to look for signs of fever following swine flu vaccination.

Children who require Celvapan will need two doses given at least three weeks apart.

What else do I need to know?

Can the swine flu vaccine be given at the same time as other vaccines?

Yes, it is normal for a number of routine childhood vaccinations to be given at the same time, but they will probably be administered in different parts of the body.

Are there any side-effects?

All vaccinations can produce side-effects such as redness, soreness and swelling at the site of the injection. Flu vaccines can cause symptoms like fever, headache and muscle aches, but they are much milder than the flu itself and only last a day or so.

If you think your child has experienced a more serious side-effect to Pandemrix or Celvapan, please inform your GP and also report it to the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency at www.mhra.gov.uk/swineflu

The vaccine is not live and cannot cause swine flu.

How can we be sure these new vaccines are safe and effective?

Pandemrix and Celvapan are both licensed vaccines. When they licensed the vaccines, the European Commission carefully considered all the available evidence and recommended that they could be used.

In the UK, and elsewhere in Europe, swine flu vaccine has been used to immunise large numbers of people, including young children, many of whom have underlying health conditions which make them particularly at risk from swine flu. The side-effects most frequently reported are non-serious and in line with expectations.

My child has already had swine flu. Does he/she still need the vaccine?

Only a small proportion of swine flu cases are confirmed by a laboratory test, so most people cannot be certain they have had swine flu. Young children should still have the vaccine, unless they have had a positive laboratory test for swine flu. It is safe to be vaccinated even if you have already had swine flu.

What should I do if my child has swine flu?

In England

If your child is under one year old or is in one of the high risk groups listed below, contact your GP.

High risk groups for children:

- patient has a serious underlying illness
- patient has a condition that suddenly gets much worse
- patient is still getting worse after five days

If your child is one year old or over and is not in one of these high risk groups, visit **www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu**

or call the National Pandemic Flu Service:
0800 1 513 100

Textphone: **0800 1 513 200**
(for people who are deaf or hard of hearing)

In Scotland

Contact your GP or NHS24: **08454 24 24 24**
Textphone: **18001 08454 24 24 24**
(for people who are deaf or hard of hearing)

In Wales

Contact your GP or call NHS Direct Wales:
0845 46 47
Textphone: **0845 606 46 47**
(for people who are deaf or hard of hearing)

In Northern Ireland

Contact your GP or out of hours service for advice.

Calling NHS24 should cost no more than the price of a local telephone call from a BT landline. Calls to NHS Direct Wales cost a maximum of 2p per minute from most BT landlines. Calls to all other numbers above are free from landlines. Calls from mobiles and other networks may vary – please check with your provider.

If you want more information

For general information about swine flu:
www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu
0800 1 513 513

Calls to this number are free from landlines and mobile phones.

For England and Scotland, extra copies of this leaflet can be ordered from
www.orderline.dh.gov.uk quoting:

England:

Swine flu child vaccination 300299

Scotland:

Swine flu child vaccination 300299/Scotland

Tel: **0300 123 1002**

Fax: **01623 724 524**

Textphone: **0300 123 1003**

(8am to 6pm, Monday to Friday)

You can order copies of this leaflet in Braille, large print, Easy read, audio and British Sign Language (BSL) formats.

In addition, you can download copies of this leaflet in alternative formats and other languages at **www.direct.gov.uk/swineflu**