



## NHS PLYMOUTH SWINE FLU BULLETIN

Update 29

Friday 4 December 2009

### **Updated information on Process for Vaccinating the Housebound and Residential and Nursing Home Residents**

The housebound and care home vaccination programme is starting on 7 December. Please could practices make sure that completed forms are sent to the Local Care Centre as soon as possible. You can do this by post, hand delivery or sent by secure email to [Rosalind.helson@nhs.net](mailto:Rosalind.helson@nhs.net). Please do not wait until you have completed them all to enable patients get vaccinated as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Thank you to practices for the work that has already been done on this and to the staff who are helping deliver the programme.

### **Priority Groups**

The first priority remains to vaccinate those in the higher risk groups, as identified by independent scientific experts on the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation. These are the people most at risk of becoming seriously ill if they catch swine flu. Arrangements are being made for vaccinating the under 5s as the next phase in the vaccination programme, and we expect to be able to give more details shortly.

There has been some confusion amongst patients about the exact definition of the current priority groups. They are:

- individuals aged six months and up to 65 years in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups
- pregnant women
- household contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- people aged 65 and over in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups

All of these groups should currently be being vaccinated. The provision of the jab to the over 65s in the clinical at risk groups – this group has always been prioritized as 4<sup>th</sup> on the JCVI – and practices vaccinate them now.

Front line clinical staff are also in the first priority group.

### **Read Codes**

The attached Read Code procedures should be used in GP practices to record activity for the H1N1 vaccination programme. There have been some issues in other areas with incorrect coding. If anyone wishes to clarify any coding procedures, please contact Tina Seedhouse (Phone 01752 435003). The Read Code procedures were originally sent to practices in September and is attached for ease of reference.

## Vaccine delivery

It is important that clinics need to be planned when vaccine orders are confirmed and a delivery date is set.

If General Practices wish to re-order additional supplies of GSK vaccine you can do so by contacting Helen Cheetham at the NHS Plymouth Public Health Dispensary Unit (PHDU) on: 01752 315764 or by email: [Helen.Cheetham@plymouth.nhs.uk](mailto:Helen.Cheetham@plymouth.nhs.uk)

Currently the number of boxes the PCT can order in any one week is being capped but the cap is variable, meaning that not all orders coming from practices are being met in the week that they are made. The expected timescale from confirmation of your order being accepted, to delivery of vaccine is expected to be 5 days but may be up to 6 days as your weekly Movianto drop will not change. Therefore if your order usually arrives on a Thursday then whenever your order is placed in the previous week delivery will take place on the next Thursday. We expect as time goes on vaccines will be much more readily available and expect orders to be more free flowing. We will update you on this.

## NHS Plymouth Swine Flu Vaccination Programme – evening session for community pharmacists, dentists and their staff

In addition to the daytime swine flu vaccination sessions which run every Monday to Friday, NHS Plymouth have arranged an evening vaccination session. This session is specifically for community pharmacists, dentists and their staff to attend. Please note this is for swine flu only and not seasonal flu.

The vaccination session will take place at the Local Care Centre, 200, Mount Gould Road, Mount Gould, PL4 7PY on **Monday 7 December 2009 between 6.30pm and 8.30pm**, please ring Rosie Helson on 01752 434 765 if you wish to attend to book an appointment. Access to the Local Care Centre is **only** via the main entrance on Mount Gould Road.

You will need to complete the attached consent form before attending the vaccination session and take it a long with you.

If you are unable to sign the consent form as you are **not** able to confirm any of the following:

- You are in good health
- You do not suffer with asthma, diabetes, heart problems, kidney problems, immunosuppressive disease.
- You have not had a blood or plasma transfusion or treatment with immunoglobulin in the last 3 months
- You do not have a bleeding disorder
- You are not pregnant or breast-feeding

You will need to contact your GP and ask he/she to sign the enclosed **GP authorisation form** and bring it along with you to the vaccination session. If you have any other additional questions you can contact Rosie Helson on 01752 434 765.

Attached are posters you can use for your staff to encourage take up – please make sure the ones with the phone number on are put where staff only can see them. The others can be seen by the public and staff. If you require more or some in A2 ring 01752 431226.