



MAYWOOD HEALTHCARE GROUP

FLU INFORMATION SHEET

SWINE FLU

9.5 million people nationally have been identified as being in the at risk groups.

The priority groups identified for the vaccine (in order of priority) are:

1. People aged over six months and under 65 years in **current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups.**
2. All pregnant women, subject to licensing conditions on trimesters
3. Household contacts of people with compromised immune systems e.g. people in regular close contact with patients on treatment for cancer
4. People aged 65 and over in the current seasonal flu vaccine clinical at-risk groups.
This does not include otherwise healthy over 65s

It is also important that you are reminded that the seasonal flu vaccine will not protect you against H1N1v and you will need to revisit for a swine flu vaccine when it is available.

It is possible to vaccinate with H1N1v vaccine and seasonal vaccine at the same time, but the surgery will be monitoring any reactions and might decide not to offer the vaccines together.

It is also crucial to be aware that the earliest that the vaccine will be available to West Sussex is mid October 2009, which means it is likely not to be at the surgery until end of October, beginning of November 2009.

If Swine Flu or the effects of Swine Flu on the population change then the government may decide to vaccinate more of the population. In the meantime we are only able to offer this vaccine to those in the priority groups above.

Please see surgery website and notice boards for updates.

SEASONAL FLU

The eligible group are:

1. Over 65's
2. Carers (this includes those in a paid or unpaid caring role who need to stay healthy as others depend upon them for day to day living. This does not include teachers, nursery workers etc.)
3. All those in the clinical at-risk groups (those patients include; respiratory problems, heart conditions, diabetes, kidney disease and those with a weakened immune system).

Maywood will not be able to expand on this list and will not be offering a private service this year. Norfolk Square surgery will be able to provide the seasonal flu vaccine for those outside of the priority areas at a cost. Telephone 01243 821404 for an appointment.

CLINIC DATES ARRANGED FOR SEASONAL FLU INCLUDE*:

Saturday 3rd October
Saturday 10th October
Saturday 17th October

All the above will be 9am until 11:30

*Further dates to be arranged.

GENERAL Q&A's

Do the vaccines have side effects? *You may get soreness, occasionally people get a slight temperature and aching muscles for a couple of days.*

Can the vaccines cause flu? *No they cannot.*

What if I'm allergic to eggs? *Let the nurse know before you are vaccinated. Eggs are used in the manufacturing of both vaccines.*

I'm pregnant, should I have the vaccines? *The Swine flu vaccine will be offered to you as you are in the priority group, however, we are awaiting guidance as to which trimester you can have it in. Seasonal flu can be safely given to pregnant women who are in the clinical at-risk groups only.*