



## **Influenza 2010 Immunisation Programmes**

The 2010 immunisation programme for influenza started in February and is a two-phase programme using different vaccines.

The first phase of immunisation is the Early Protection Programme for early protection against Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu) which is offered to frontline health workers and those most at risk of severe outcomes from contracting the virus. This phase began on 1 February 2010. The monovalent (single strain) pandemic influenza vaccine that is being offered to these groups only protects against Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu).

The annual Seasonal Influenza Immunisation Programme is planned to begin early in March using this year's seasonal influenza vaccine. This vaccine protects against three strains of influenza including the Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu) strain. As is the case every year, this vaccine will be funded for people in higher risk groups, but other people will also be able to receive it from their GP.

Those identified at higher risk of complications should discuss this with their GP. If appropriate they can have both the monovalent vaccine, which requires two injections at least three weeks apart, in February, followed by the seasonal influenza vaccine in March, which provides protection against pandemic influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu) in addition to two other common influenza strains.

### **Early Protection Programme using the monovalent vaccine (Celvapan)**

The vaccine offered as part of the Early Protection Programme is the monovalent pandemic influenza vaccine, Celvapan®, produced by Baxter Healthcare Limited. Two doses of the vaccine are needed at least three weeks apart.

This vaccine protects against Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu) only.

New Zealand has a limited supply of this vaccine, enough for 150,000 people, which is why the offer of this vaccine is limited to higher risk priority groups and frontline health workers.

Other people will be able to get vaccinated for Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu) through the annual Seasonal Influenza Immunisation Programme as in previous years.

### **Seasonal influenza vaccine**

This year's seasonal influenza vaccine will offer protection from Pandemic Influenza H1N1 2009 (swine flu) as well as two other seasonal strains.

Vaxigrip®, Fluvax® and Influvax® are the three vaccines that will be used to immunise people in New Zealand this year.

The seasonal influenza vaccine is free to eligible people from early March 2010.

Individuals who are not eligible for free seasonal influenza vaccine can either purchase the vaccine or receive it as part of a workplace immunisation programme.

### **Who is eligible for free vaccinations under the Early Protection Programme?**

The following people are eligible for free vaccination under the Early Protection Programme with the pandemic vaccine from 1 February 2010.

1. Frontline healthcare workers
2. People aged six months to 64 years of age who:
  - are pregnant
  - are morbidly obese
  - have cardiovascular disease (ischemic heart disease, congestive heart failure, rheumatic heart disease, congenital heart disease and cerebrovascular disease)
  - have chronic respiratory disease (asthma if on regular preventive therapy; other chronic respiratory disease with impaired lung function)
  - have diabetes
  - have chronic renal disease
  - have any cancer, excluding basal and squamous skin cancers if not invasive
  - have other conditions (autoimmune disease, immune suppression, HIV, transplant recipients, neuromuscular and central nervous system disease, haemoglobinopathies, children on long term aspirin).

3. Healthy children aged from six months to their fifth birthday enrolled in a general practice that has a high rate of Maori, Pacific or children from areas with high rates of socio-economic hardship (Eligible Practices).

### **Who is eligible for free vaccinations under the Seasonal Influenza Immunisation Programme in 2010?**

The following people are eligible for free vaccination under the annual Seasonal Influenza Immunisation Programme from early March 2010.

1. All people who are 65 years of age and older
2. People aged six months to 64 years of age who:
  - are pregnant
  - are morbidly obese
  - have cardiovascular disease (ischemic heart disease, congestive heart failure, rheumatic heart disease, congenital heart disease and cerebrovascular disease)
  - have chronic respiratory disease (asthma if on regular preventive therapy; other chronic respiratory disease with impaired lung function)
  - have diabetes
  - have chronic renal disease
  - have any cancer, excluding basal and squamous skin cancers if not invasive
  - have other conditions (autoimmune disease, immune suppression, HIV, transplant recipients, neuromuscular and central nervous system disease, haemaglobinopathies, children on long term aspirin).
3. Healthy children aged from six months to their fifth birthday enrolled in a general practice that has a high rate of Maori, Pacific or children from areas with high rates of socio-economic hardship (Eligible Practices).

### **Where to go for more information**

Speak to your doctor or practice nurse about getting vaccinated or phone the immunisation advice line 0800 IMMUNE (466863).