

1 December 2009

Dear Parent,

**For parents of children with long term medical conditions only**

**Swine flu vaccination**

Does your child have a long term medical condition? If so, please contact your GP to organise a swine flu vaccination for your child.

The swine flu vaccine is recommended for children with long term medical conditions as listed below:

- Chronic lung disease, for example, children with asthma who have needed hospital admission or who regularly need steroid inhalers or steroid medicine.
- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic neurological diseases, for e.g. cerebral palsy or spina bifida or epilepsy, some children with learning difficulties
- Diabetes
- Weakened immune systems due to disease or drugs, eg cancer drugs

If you are unsure if your child should have the vaccine, please check with your GP.

Swine flu is generally a mild illness but can cause serious complications for small numbers of people. If your child has a chronic medical condition, vaccination is the best way to protect your child against infection.

Children with complex neurological conditions are being offered the vaccine first because they are most vulnerable to serious illness and are encouraged to have the vaccine before the end of November. Please ring your GP to arrange now.

For more information about swine flu and an information leaflet on the vaccine, see: [http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Swineflu/DG\\_177831](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/Swineflu/DG_177831)

**If your child does not have chronic medical condition or already has an appointment for the swine flu vaccination, please ignore this letter.** At the present time and for immediate future the swine flu vaccination is not available for children who do not have long term medical conditions.

Yours sincerely

Dr Paula Grey  
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