



PRESS RELEASE

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GHA STRESSES THE IMPORTANCE OF SEASONAL FLU VACCINATION

The GHA wishes to advise the general public that its annual vaccination programme against seasonal (human) flu has already started. This is the vaccination programme that takes place every year and is designed to prevent the spread of the “normal” seasonal flu amongst the elderly and those with serious illnesses.

The GHA understands that there are some people in the community who believe the Swine Flu Vaccination Programme (which is not available yet) will cover seasonal (human) flu. This is incorrect. They are two separate vaccination programmes focused on different population groups.

Because of the international publicity and media emphasis on Swine Flu, which is primarily a disease of younger people, the GHA is concerned that the elderly and those with serious illnesses will this year not avail themselves of the opportunity of being vaccinated against the seasonal (human) flu. It is important to note that the mortality rate amongst the elderly is much higher with seasonal (human) flu than Swine Flu.

The GHA therefore urges people over 60, those with serious chronic illness such as diabetes, lung and kidney disease and those who care for elderly relatives at home, to attend the Primary Care Centre for their annual vaccination programme.

The programme is run at the Primary Care Centre every weekday afternoon from 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

Full details are available from the Primary Care Centre on telephone number 200 70143 ext 3210 or 200 72355.