



PRESS RELEASE

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SWINE FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME

CANCELLATION OF SECOND DOSE FOR MAJORITY OF CHILDREN

When the Swine Flu Vaccination programme was introduced in Gibraltar, it was announced that on the advice of the UK Council for Vaccination (JCVI), all children between 6 months and 10 years would require two doses of the vaccine, a few weeks apart. However, this would be kept under review.

This week, the JCVI has advised that children (except those who have immune disorder) do not require the second dose. This is based on findings of recent studies that the full effect of immunisation is already achieved by one single dose of the Pandemrix adjuvanted vaccine used in Gibraltar. Accordingly all these children who have been given a second appointment by the Vaccination Centre will not need to attend for vaccination.

This change does not apply to children with immune disorders. Children with immune disorders are those who have:

- Lowered immunity due to disease or treatment (such as steroid medication or cancer treatment)
- A problem with the spleen (e.g. sickle cell disease) or have had their spleen removed

Children with immune disorders should have two doses as previously advised.

If there is any doubt, a doctor should be consulted.

Parents who have not had their children vaccinated are advised to make early use of the opportunity to have them protected against a disease that carries higher risks for children.