



## PRESS RELEASE

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### **Two serious cases of Swine Flu in Gibraltar**

Test results on two patients who were being treated by GHA over the past few weeks for severe lung inflammation have proved positive as Swine Flu with lung complications. These two patients were not in the identified At Risk group published by the GHA in October 2010 and January 2011.

The general public is reminded that susceptible persons, even those who are not in the high risk group, may, if they contract Swine Flu develop serious and life threatening complications such as lung failure (requiring artificial ventilation), kidney failure, heart failure and secondary infections.

Swine Flu is highly infectious and unlike other flu viruses is particularly severe on pregnant women, young persons and people with certain pre-existing diseases.

These two current cases of Swine Flu in Gibraltar have been cases with serious complications in otherwise healthy adults. The GHA is therefore once again offering the vaccine to everyone in accordance with the following protocol.

**Protocol:**

- 1) For Persons in Risk Groups, a vaccine protecting against three flu viruses (including swine flu) is available. Please note this is a repeat of the advice given in October 2010 and January 2011.**

Persons in Risk Groups are:

<b>1) All persons aged 65 years or over.</b>	
<b>2) Persons aged between 6 months and 65 years, who meet these conditions:</b>	
<u>Condition</u>	<u>Example</u>
Persons who suffer from High Risk diseases	Severe Asthma Chest complaints, including bronchitis and emphysema A heart problem A kidney disease A liver disease A neurological condition, e.g. MS or cerebral palsy A stroke or a transient ischaemic attack (TIA) Diabetes
Persons with lowered immunity due to disease or treatment	Steroid medication Cancer treatment Problem with the spleen (or have had the spleen removed).
Pregnant women	Of any age and at any stage of pregnancy
Main carer of frail person	Older or disabled person
Front line health or social care worker	GHA employees Care Agency employees Other Doctors, Nurses, Dentists and Pharmacists.
Handler of live animals	GONHS staff, veterinary staff and bird handlers

It is again drawn to the attention of the public that **pregnant women** are at an increased risk of severe disease and flu-related hospital admissions. Women who are currently pregnant and have never received the swine flu vaccine should get themselves immunised.

- 2) For all other persons the swine flu vaccine (which protects against swine flu only) is available.**

**Safety:**

Both vaccines are safe and have been extensively used throughout the world. There are no known problems from giving the seasonal flu (or swine flu) vaccine to women who are pregnant at any stage of the pregnancy.

**What to do:**

All persons who have not been immunised against swine flu, either through the vaccine which protects against 3 Flu viruses or the vaccine which protects against Swine Flu only, are urged go directly to the Flu Vaccination service at the Primary Care Centre (Blood Clinic), from Monday to Fridays between 2pm and 4pm.

Prescriptions are not necessary, except for (a) children with immunosuppression and (b) children aged between 6 months and 4 years. They should see their doctor and obtain a prescription in the usual way.

For further details the Primary Care Centre should be contacted on 20070143 ext. 3210 or 20072355.