

SWINE FLU VACCINATION 2009

When will the vaccination campaign begin?

The Interterritorial Council of the National Health System (CISNS) has decided that the vaccination campaign will begin on 16 November.

Who needs to be vaccinated initially?

The population groups the CISNS considers a priority for the pandemic vaccine are as follows:

• Expectant mothers

• Social-health workers

- All workers at health centres, for both primary and hospital treatment, public and private.
- Staff at retirement homes and centres for the chronically ill who have continuous contact with vulnerable persons.

• People working in essential public services

- State security forces and bodies, at the national, autonomous or local levels.
- Firefighters.
- Civil protection services.
- Persons manning the telephones of emergency health services.
- Workers at prisons and other places of legal confinement.

• Persons aged over 6 months who, because of a special clinical condition, are at greater risk of complication arising from infection by the A (H1N1) virus 2009. These clinical conditions are:

- Chronic cardiovascular diseases (excluding hypertension).
- Chronic respiratory diseases (including bronchopulmonary dysplasia, cystic fibrosis and persistent moderate-serious asthma).
- Type I and type II diabetes mellitus treated with drugs.
- Moderate-serious kidney failure.
- Moderate-serious haemoglobinopathies and anaemia.
- No spleen.
- Advanced chronic liver disease.
- Serious neuromuscular diseases.
- Immunosuppressive patients (including when due to HIV infection or to drugs, or in transplant recipients).
- Morbid obesity (body mass index of 40 or more).
- Persons aged under 18 receiving prolonged treatment with acetylsalicylic acid to guard against the possibility of developing Reye's syndrome.



Vaccination in our country is voluntary, even in the groups for which it is recommended as a priority, just as in all previous vaccination campaigns.

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Why is vaccination recommended?

From the Public Health point of view:

1. Vaccination of the population with a high risk of complications will reduce the seriousness of the cases (fewer hospitalisations).
2. Vaccination of health workers will reduce the risk of infection of the persons they attend to.
3. Vaccination of people providing essential services to the community will keep the system fully operational during the pandemic.

What is in the vaccine?

In Spain we shall have the following preparations approved by the EMEA (European Medicines Agency), both of which are safe and effective:

- Focetria® – (Novartis laboratories)
- Pandemrix® – (Glaxo Smith Kline laboratories)

The Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AEMPS) reports that these preparations contain an 'A' strain (H1N1) which is similar to the one which has caused the pandemic, and in both cases the vaccine contains inactivated viruses, never live.

Both Focetria® and Pandemrix® also contain an adjuvant, which is a substance to increase the immune response to the vaccine, making a smaller amount of vaccine necessary to obtain satisfactory immunity. Both adjuvants (MF59 for Focetria®, and ASO3 for Pandemrix®), have proved to be safe in their respective areas of application.

Which one do I need?

- Children aged under 6 months must not be vaccinated.
- Between 6 months and 17 years Focetria® will be administered in the single dose form to anyone in the greater risk of complication groups.
- There will be a vaccine without an adjuvant for expectant mothers.
- Adults aged between 18 and 60 years in any of the priority groups will preferably be given Pandemrix®.
- Persons aged over 60 in any of the priority groups will preferably be given Focetria®.

If you have any doubts, consult your doctor.

How many doses of vaccine do I need?

Although initially it was designed to be administered in two doses, with a three-week interval between, as the vaccine has proved to be very effective, in most cases a single dose will be sufficient. Check with your vaccination centre.

What are the secondary effects of the vaccine?

The secondary effects observed so far are similar to those which appear normally with the seasonal flu vaccine. The most frequent are: pain, reddening and swelling at the point of inoculation, and symptoms similar to those of a state of mild flu which disappear in 1-2 days without treatment. For more information visit The Spanish Agency of Medicines and Medical Devices (AEMPS) website www.agemed.es.

Can it be applied at the same time as the seasonal flu vaccine?

Depending on the type of seasonal vaccine administered, it may be necessary to wait at least three weeks between one and the other. Check with your vaccination centre.

Where can I get vaccinated?

To know where you can get vaccinated, please consult the Swine flu telephone help lines of your Autonomous Community, which can be found at:

<http://www.informaciongripea.es/preguntas-y-respuestas-mas-frecuentes.html#ambitoI5>

<http://www.msc.es/servCiudadanos/alertas/telefonosCCAAGripeA.htm>

If you have any concerns about the Swine flu vaccine 2009, consult your doctor.



For further information visit: www.informaciongripea.es