



- Please immediately bring to the attention of all doctors -

Date: 17 August 2007

Contact telephone number: **8226-7177 (24 hours/7 days)**

INFLUENZA VACCINATION

The Department has been informed of the sudden death this week of a 48 year old woman who has had influenza A confirmed by laboratory testing. The case is before the coroner and cause of death is not yet confirmed.

We recommend vaccination for anyone aged more than 6 months who has not yet been vaccinated. There is no remaining Vaxigrip (Sanofi) in Australia though there are still supplies of Vaxigrip Junior. There are large remaining stocks of FluVax.

The dosage schedule recommended is as outlined in the newly revised Australian Immunisation Handbook 9th edition
([http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/handbook-9-c3.9a/\\$File/3.9-influenza.pdf](http://immunise.health.gov.au/internet/immunise/publishing.nsf/Content/handbook-9-c3.9a/$File/3.9-influenza.pdf))

Recommended doses of influenza vaccine

Age	Dose	Number of Doses (first vaccination)	Number of doses* (subsequent years)
6 months-<3 years	0.25ml	2 [†]	1
3-9 years	0.5 ml	2 [†]	1
>9 years	0.5ml	1	1

* If a child 6 months to ≤ 9 years of age receiving influenza vaccine for the first time inadvertently does not receive the second dose within the same year, they should have 2 doses administered the following year.

[†] Two doses at least 1 month apart are recommended for children aged ≤ 9 years who are receiving influenza vaccine for the first time. The same vial should not be re-used for the 2 doses.

We remind you also to consider use of antivirals (Oseltamivir & Zanamivir), which reduce the duration and severity of illness if commenced within 48 hours of onset of symptoms. There is no evidence of benefit if they are commenced later than this.

Please contact the Communicable Disease Control Branch on 08 8226 7177 (24hours/7 days) for any enquiries or advice.

Dr Ann Koehler - Director, Communicable Disease Control Branch

Information contained within this advice should be treated as confidential and is for the intended recipient only.

PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT