



Dipartiment tas-Saħħa Primarja

DH Circular No.199/2011

DH 4210/2011

12th September, 2011

To: All Directors
CEOs/Medical Superintendents, Hospitals
Senior GPs and NOs at Health Centres
Medical Doctors
Homes For the Elderly
Convents, Day Centres, Institutions

Influenza Vaccine Campaign 2011

The seasonal influenza vaccine campaign is once again launched for the year 2011/2012. In order to ensure a successful uptake of influenza vaccine, your cooperation is being kindly requested.

1. Eligibility

All the nurses and doctors who will be involved in administering the influenza campaign are informed that the influenza vaccine will be provided **free of charge** to the following categories of people:

- All Health Division Health Care Professionals and other staff **working with patients;** *(Only health care providers working in Government Hospitals, Health Centres, Gov. Institutions and Gov. Homes are entitled to free influenza vaccination.)*
- The following workers:
 - Police
 - AFM
 - Civil Protection
 - Staff at Detention Centres and Open Centres
 - Veterinary services
 - Abattoir
 - Cleansing Department
 - Customs officials involved in border controls
 - Corradino Correctional Facility staff and inmates
- Persons residing in institutions;
- Students attending Special Schools
- Persons aged 55 years and over;
- Children from the age of 6 months to 59 months
- Persons of any age suffering from -

- Chronic respiratory disease
- Chronic heart disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Diabetes Mellitus
- Any chronic Immunodeficiency state, including HIV or AIDS

*In the case of persons below 55 years of age, evidence of one of the above conditions needs to be confirmed either by presenting a **Schedule V Control Card** or a **medical certificate**. Persons over 55 years of age or high risk groups who are hospitalized during the vaccination period will be able to take this vaccine while in hospital.*

2. Requesting Vaccines

All Government Departments, Homes for the elderly, convents, other Institutions, and medical doctors who wish to request influenza vaccines for their eligible clients are to forward the following information about the persons being vaccinated in an **MS Excel** format to the generic e-mail address '**immunisation@gov.mt**' by **not later than the 8th October 2011**:

No.	Surname	Name	ID	Age	Locality
1					
2					
3					

Arrangements for the collection of influenza vaccines are to be made **only** with the Nursing Officer in charge of NIS, Floriana Health Center on telephone number **25680227**. In the case of Gozo, arrangements for collection of vaccines are to be made with the Pharmacist in charge of Medical Stores at Gozo General Hospital on telephone number **22106250**. Any extra vaccines not administered should be stored in a refrigerator (**not freezer**) and then returned **immediately** to the National Immunisation Service (NIS), Floriana or Medical Stores in Gozo as the case may be. 'Sharps' containers' with the used syringes, supplied from the NIS or Gozo Medical Stores, are to be returned at the end of the vaccination campaign.

Please note that vaccines must at all times be stored at a temperature of 2 to 8⁰C in a refrigerator. Vaccines cannot be placed in a freezer.

Your co-operation is solicited in order to ensure the smooth running of this campaign

Dr. Denis Vella Baldacchino
Director Primary Health Department