

## Flu Vaccination Information

**Please read the following and inform the Doctor/ Nurse if the person about to be vaccinated:**

- Is currently unwell with a high temperature (over 38.C)
- Has had a severe reaction to any vaccine or vaccine component
- Has any severe allergy, especially to antibiotics, eggs or latex rubber/gelatine
- Has a disease which lowers immunity (e.g. cancer, leukaemia, HIV/AIDS)
- Is having treatment which lowers immunity (e.g. radiotherapy, chemotherapy, steroid medication)
- Has a history of Guillain-Barre Syndrome

### **Possible Side Effects of the influenza vaccine:**

Influenza vaccine is NOT a live vaccine and therefore cannot give you a dose of influenza.

#### *Common side effects:*

- Redness, swelling, a hard lump, soreness, bruising or itching around the injection site
- Fever, chills, shivering, sweating, dizziness, headache, malaise (generally unwell)
- Muscle aches and pains, joint pain
- Loss of appetite, feeling sick, vomiting, diarrhoea, stomach pain
- Drowsiness or tiredness
- Irritability

#### *Extremely rare side effects:*

- Severe allergic reaction – Allergy to influenza vaccination is rare and any such severe reaction will usually occur within the first few hours of vaccination.
- Call an ambulance (000) immediately if you notice any swelling of limbs, face, eyes, mouth or throat, difficulty breathing, wheezing, hives, rash, itching, unusual tiredness or weakness that is sudden and severe

### **WHAT TO DO IF SIDE EFFECTS OCCUR:**

To reduce the side effect symptoms: use a cold wet cloth on the injection site, drink extra fluids & take paracetamol

*If side effects seem severe or persist, see your doctor, immunisation provider or call Health Direct:  
1800 022 222*

**It is important for you to wait for 15 minutes after being vaccinated so you may be observed for any reactions.**

**Please note** – the above information is a summary of the most common risks and complications of the influenza vaccination. Please ask the nursing staff if you would like a more detailed product information sheet.