

Flu FAQ's

How much does the flu vaccine cost?

The flu vaccine costs £45 per vaccine.

How old do you have to be to receive the vaccine?

Anyone from 6 months old can receive the flu vaccine.

Where is the vaccine given?

It is given by injection. From the age of 1 year then usually in the arm you don't write with - in children aged less than 1 year it's normally the thigh.

Who administers the vaccine?

One of our SurreyGP doctors - Dr Lewis or Dr Skilbeck.

Are there any side effects?

The flu vaccine is a well-tolerated vaccine. Some people experience a mildly sore arm or fever within a couple of days. *THIS IS NOT THE FLU!*

What happens if I have a reaction?

SurreyGP have emergency equipment to deal with rare serious reactions. You can telephone for advice if you have any concerns following your vaccination.

How often is the vaccine given?

The flu virus changes every year so a new vaccine is produced annually.

What time of year are the vaccines given?

Flu vaccination commences around mid-September. Peak flu season is around Christmas time.

How many vaccines do you need?

Children aged less than 9 years old need two vaccines given at least 4 weeks apart if they have not previously received a flu vaccine. In subsequent years only one is required.
Most children and all adults only need one vaccine.

Is this the Swine Flu vaccine?

The Winter Flu Vaccine contains protection against Swine Flu.

How long does the vaccine take to work?

2 to 3 weeks after vaccination.

Which vaccine are you using this year?

This year we are using the four strain INFLUENZA VACCINE flu vaccination suitable for everybody over the age of 6 months – manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur and by Mylan. Children under 18 and patients with egg allergy will receive the Sanofi vaccine.

Which strains of Flu are covered in the vaccine this year? The vaccine contains protection against swine flu and three other strains.

- A/Michigan/45/2015 (H1N1)pdm09-like strain (A Singapore/GP1908/2015, IVR-180) 15 micrograms HA (swine flu)

- A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016 (H3N2)-like strain (A/Singapore/INFIMH-16-0019/2016, NIB-104)

- B/Colorado/06/2017-like strain (B/Victoria/2/87 lineage) (B/Maryland/15/2016, NYMC BX-69A) 15 micrograms HA

- B/Phuket/3073/2013-like strain (B/Yamagata/16/88 lineage) (B/Phuket/3073/2013, wild type) 15 micrograms HA

Does the vaccine contain mercury?

No.

I have a very technical question – is there a link to fuller product information?

Yes, follow this link here to the emc/Sanofi Pasteur website – it should take you directly to the SANOFI QUADRIVALENT INFLUENZA VACCINE 2018/2019 page.

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.666.pdf>

Yes, follow this link here to the emc/Mylan website – it should take you directly to the INFLUVAC TETRA MYLAN 2018/2019 page.

<https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/files/pil.9381.pdf>

I am pregnant, can I have the jab?

Yes, you should – it is recommended for pregnant ladies.

I am breastfeeding, can I have the jab?

Yes.

Can I drive after receiving the vaccination?

Yes.

I am having other vaccinations today; can I still receive the flu vaccination?

Yes – it is perfectly safe to receive at the same time as other jabs.

How do you store your vaccines?

SurreyGP follows laid down vaccine storage guidelines for all of our vaccinations. This includes the use of three on-site pharmaceutical refrigeration units which are monitored daily to ensure that our vaccines are kept between +2 to +8 degrees centigrade. Our products also arrive to us via a documented cold chain supply. It is recommended to allow flu vaccinations to come to room temperature before administering the vaccine.