

Flu FAQ's

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 it is given 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.

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 from 6 months to 17 years of age: one dose of 0.5 mL. For children less than 9 years of age who have not previously been vaccinated, a second dose of 0.5 mL should be given after an interval of at least 4 weeks. 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.

Is this a COVID19 vaccine?

No.

Do I need to leave a specific interval between my flu vaccine and covid vaccine?

No, these vaccines can be administered at any interval.

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 three strain SANOFI Vaxigrip Trivalent Influenza Vaccine suitable for everybody over the age of 6 months. Over 60's are advised to receive SANOFI Efluelda Trivalent Influenza Vaccine. Both manufactured by Sanofi Pasteur.

Which strains of Flu are covered in the vaccine this year?

The vaccine contains protection against swine flu and two other strains:

- A/Victoria/4897/2022 (H1N1)pdm09-like strain
- A/Croatia/10136RV/2023 (H3N2)-like strain
- B/Austria/1359417/2021-like strain

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 website – it should take you directly to the SANOFI Trivalent Influenza Vaccine pages.

Vaxigrip: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/100673/smpc#gref>

Efluelda: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/100678/pil#gref>

Is there a Patient Information Leaflet available?

Yes, follow this link here.

Vaxigrip: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/100673/pil>

Efluelda: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/100678/pil>

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.