



The H1N1 (Swine) Flu vaccine is similar to ordinary (seasonal) flu vaccine. It is not a live vaccine and cannot give you swine flu.

There are two types of vaccine - Pandemrix and Celvapan. Many people given the Pandemrix vaccine will need only one dose. People who have the Celvapan vaccine will need two doses, three weeks apart.

Effectiveness of the vaccine:

Studies have shown that at least 70% of people injected with the vaccine produce antibodies. There is as yet no evidence on how effective the vaccine is at preventing an individual from developing swine flu. This information can be obtained only after a large number of people have been vaccinated and studied for several months. There is also currently no evidence on whether the vaccine reduces the risk of complications or reduces hospital admissions for those who are vaccinated. Again, this information can only be obtained after months of use.

Side-effects:

- The H1N1 (Swine) Flu vaccine has undergone limited trials; however, it is similar to the seasonal flu vaccine which has undergone extensive testing.
- There is no evidence so far to suggest that the vaccine causes any serious side-effects.
- Any rare adverse effects cannot be identified until large numbers of individuals have been vaccinated.
- The vaccine itself has not been tested on pregnant women but the safety of seasonal flu vaccine has been established on pregnant women. There is no evidence that the vaccine produces any serious side-effects in pregnant women.
- The main adverse effects of the vaccine are: pain and swelling at the injection site, headache, fever and dizziness.
- The Medicine and Health Regulatory Agency (MHRA) has analysed reports of adverse effects from the H1N1 (Swine) Flu vaccine. The report states, "The most commonly suspected adverse reactions are injection site reaction (eg, pain, swelling, bruising) or other well-established adverse effects of many vaccines including the swine flu vaccine (eg, nausea, vomiting, muscle pain, fever, fatigue, headache, swollen glands)".
- Guillain-Barré Syndrome and 1976 swine flu vaccine: A rare neurological disorder called Guillain-Barré Syndrome which causes paralysis was identified as a risk with the swine flu vaccines used in the US in 1976. The reason why the 1976 vaccine increased the risk of Guillain-Barré Syndrome is unknown. There is no evidence to suggest that the present vaccines (Pandemrix or Celvapan) carry this risk.

In order to reduce the risk of transmitting the virus please continue to:

- 'CATCH IT, BIN IT, KILL IT' - 'Covering your cough and sneezes', disposing of the tissues and washing hands immediately or using an alcohol gel if soap and water are not available.
- Frequent hand-washing and cleaning of frequently touched surfaces in the home and workplace, such as door handles, light switches and work surfaces.

If you have any further questions, please refer to the frequently asked questions leaflet or ask the healthcare professional who is administering the vaccine.

**The information in this fact sheet can be provided
in large print or on audio tape, on request.**