

HELP PROTECT YOUR FAMILY AGAINST THE 'FLU

MYTH: Influenza (the 'flu) is just like getting a cold

FACT: Influenza is a highly infectious disease which is spread through coughing and sneezing. It is often considered a mild disease, slightly worse than a cold, but 'flu kills millions of people, including children, around the world. Symptoms include chills, sweating, headache, cough and generalised muscle and joint pains.

MYTH: The 'flu vaccine gives you the 'flu

FACT: The 'flu vaccine does not contain a live virus, therefore cannot give anyone the 'flu. People who are vaccinated may experience some mild soreness or redness in the arm where vaccine was given or have mild 'flu-like symptoms such as nasal congestion, fever or mild muscle aches/pain. This is normal vaccine reaction due to the stimulation of a protective immune response against the 'flu viruses.

MYTH: I had a 'flu vaccine last year so don't need one this year

FACT: The 'flu strains change from year to year, therefore a new 'flu vaccine must be produced each year to protect against the current three circulating influenza strains.



This study has been approved by a human research ethics committee. In Perth the study is run by the research staff at the Vaccine Trials Group, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research in conjunction with Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and the University of Western Australia School of Paediatrics.



Information for parents on influenza, available vaccines and a new influenza study for children and teenagers.



Children are known to spread influenza easily and it is believed that vaccinating them can help stop people of all ages becoming sick with influenza.

In Australia, the influenza vaccine is licensed for children at 6 months of age. The introduction of the 'flu vaccine for all children on the national immunisation program is currently being considered.

We are conducting an influenza vaccine study for children and teenagers in Perth to obtain more information on the safety and common side effects of 'flu vaccine in children.

WHO CAN TAKE PART?

Healthy children and teenagers who:

- Are aged 6 months to 17 years
- Have no chronic medical conditions
- Have not had the 'flu vaccine in the last 6 months

WHAT DOES THE STUDY INVOLVE?

Each study participant will receive this year's 'flu vaccine.

The study involves:

- One or two doses of the 'flu vaccine depending on their age and previous vaccination status.
- 2 or 3 visits to the study centre
- NO blood test
- Parents/guardians or participants will be asked to keep a record of any symptoms that may occur following participant's vaccination

All information we collect will be kept confidential and secure.

COSTS?

There are no costs involved and limited free parking is available. Travel costs will be reimbursed.

CONTACT US FOR MORE INFORMATION

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