

About swine flu

Influenza (or the flu) is a highly infectious disease caused by a virus and can be associated with serious complications including pneumonia.

A new strain of the influenza virus emerged in Mexico and the United States early in 2009. This new strain is known as H1N1 and is thought to have originated from an Influenza virus that infects pigs.

It is different to existing human influenza strains and the current influenza vaccine is not expected to offer any protection against this H1N1 strain.



How do I find out more?

For more information please contact the research nurses at the Vaccine Trials Group on:

Phone - 9340 8542

Email - flu@ichr.uwa.edu.au

Web - www.ichr.uwa.edu.au/vtg



In Perth, this study is run by the research nurses, doctors and scientists 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 and Child Health.



H1N1 SWINE 'FLU vaccine study for children



About this study

The purpose of this study is to see how effective a new vaccination against H1N1 "Swine Flu" is, when given to children from 6 months of age to under 9 years of age.

Two different strengths of the vaccine will be given in two doses to children who participate in the study.



What does the study involve?

- 3 visits to Vaccine Trials Group over 3 months
- 6 short telephone calls over the next 6 months
- Allow your child to be streamed into one of two groups to receive different strengths of the vaccine
- 3 small blood samples (about a teaspoon) - a numbing cream can be used to decrease discomfort
- Parents will be asked to keep a record of any symptoms that may occur following the vaccinations
- If your child experiences an "Influenza-like illness" in the first 3 months of the study, we ask parents to contact the study nurses at the Vaccine Trials Group and your child will need to come in for an extra visit.

All information we collect will be kept confidential and secure.



Who can take part?

Children 6 months of age to under 9 years of age who have no chronic medical conditions.



Are there any costs to me?

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