About Influenza ('Flu)

H5N1 (avian influenza) could be a contender for the next influenza ('flu) pandemic. Avian 'flu virus (H5N1) is a virus found mainly in domestic and wild birds. Since 1997, avian H5N1 influenza virus has caused severe disease and death in hundreds of people, particularly in Southeast Asia and has since spread to Europe and Africa.

'Flu causes severe illness in children under the age of 5 years. The impact of flu infection in older children and adolescents can also be reflected in healthcare service requirements, missed days at school or work by family members, potential spread within schools or transmission to elderly family members.

In a 'flu pandemic, children would not only be at a high risk of the severe effects of 'flu, but may be central in the spread of the disease. Vaccination of children and adolescents may not only protect the children themselves, but may also significantly decrease the rate of transmission and consequently, the knock-on effects in the general population.

Telethon Institute for Child Health Research

Princess Margaret Hospital for Children

The University of Western Australia

In Perth, this study is run by research nurses, research assistants and doctors at the Vaccine Trials Group, Telethon Institute for Child Health Research, in conjunction with the Princess Margaret Hospital for Children and the University of Western Australia School of Paediatrics and Child Health.

3-17yrs Bird 'flu vaccine study brochure: version 1: 30 October 2009

Vaccine Trials Group

New Bird 'Flu Vaccine Study for Children

About this study

A vaccine against avian (bird) 'flu has been developed by using a killed H5N1 influenza virus. This strain has been developed for use in avian influenza vaccines for humans. The vaccine strain cannot cause avian influenza.

This research study will look at the safety and how well the vaccine works in producing protective antibodies against the H5N1 virus in children aged 3 to 17 years. This vaccine has already been studied in over 5000 adults and shown to be safe. The vaccine is licensed in the European Union for use in a pandemic situation in adult subjects.

Participants will receive the study vaccine (H5N1 vaccine). If your child is between 3 to 8 years, they will be given one of the two different strengths of vaccine (3.75 micrograms or 7.5 micrograms). However, children 9 years of age and above will receive the 7.5 micrograms of the vaccine.

What does the study involve?

The study involves:

- 8 Visits to the centre over 12.5 months
- Vaccination with H5N1 study vaccine as described above
- 5 blood tests
- Completion of diary cards
- Booster vaccination at 12 months.

All information we collect will be kept confidential and secure.

Who is needed for the study?

Healthy children 3 to 17 years of age.

Are there any costs to me?

No, there are no costs involved and free parking is available. Travel reimbursements will be provided.

How do I find out more?

Please contact the research staff at the Vaccine Trials Group:

Phone 9340 8542

or email bird@ichr.uwa.edu.au