
The request for advice

Date of request: 15 September 2009; reference: PG/CI-2.955.307

On 17 August, you sent me the advisory report entitled 'Vaccination against pandemic influenza A/H1N1 2009: target groups and prioritisation'. In this document, you stated that the panel of experts would meet again in September to review the situation.

I would ask that you address the following questions in the course of that meeting.

1. Is any new data available now concerning the epidemiology of influenza A (H1N1) 2009 in the Netherlands in (numbers, ages, severity of disease, medical high-risk group), or can such data be expected in future on the basis of international developments in this area, which might justify adding to, or further clarifying, the previous advisory report on target groups and the way in which they are prioritised?
2. On the basis of medical/immunological and registration considerations, can you indicate the maximum period of time allowed between the two vaccinations?
3. Does administering one rather than two vaccinations provide sufficient protection for healthy individuals aged 60 or above?

4. Can you indicate the point on the epidemic curve at which (in theory) the benefits to be gained by preventing health impairment no longer outweigh the disadvantages (adverse effects, the effort involved), thereby rendering vaccination superfluous?

5. Has further information come to light concerning the safety and efficacy of the vaccines?

I look forward to receiving the report of your deliberations.

The Minister of Health, Welfare and Sport,
(signed)