
Executive Summary

This report presents the findings of an expert meeting held on 10 August 2009 to discuss the target groups and possible prioritisation for any vaccination programme against pandemic influenza A/H1N1 2009. Some aspects of the discussion were, of necessity, based on relatively limited knowledge about the patients affected to date and the course of the pandemic. The meeting was nevertheless able to offer the following recommendations.

Vaccination is recommended for the following (risk) groups:

- Individuals at medical risk, in line with the existing indication for the annual seasonal flu vaccination, together with all those aged 60 and above, regardless of health status.
- Pregnant women in the medical risk groups, but *only* during the second or third trimester of pregnancy. The experts do not recommend the vaccination of expectant mothers who do not belong to one of the recognised risk groups.
- Healthcare staff who may come into contact with patients belonging to the previously defined medical risk groups.
- Family members and (informal) carers of individuals at extremely high risk of death or serious illness from influenza.

At this time, the experts do not recommend a general vaccination programme for the entire Dutch population.

According to the current delivery schedule, vaccines will be available in sufficient quantities whereby prioritisation will probably not be necessary. If this situation changes, the experts advise that healthy individuals aged 60 and over should be vaccinated *after* the other groups listed above. If further prioritisation within the medical risk groups proves necessary, the experts propose the following order of priority:

- Patients with a serious disorder and functional deficiency of the airways and lungs; patients with a serious (acute or chronic) disorder of cardiac function; patients with insulin-dependent diabetes.
- Patients with a disorder and functional deficiency of the airways and lungs; patients with a chronic disorder of cardiac function which can be stabilised and compensated to a reasonable degree by medication; patients with chronic renal insufficiency (dialysis and kidney transplant patients); children and adolescents aged from 6 months to 18 years who have been taking salicylates on a long-term basis; patients with a non-insulin-dependent form of diabetes; individuals with a mental handicap, in residential care; all other individuals in residential care and having a general predisposition to respiratory infections.
- Individuals aged under 60 with reduced resistance to infections.

Given the current uncertainty with regard to both the course and the seriousness of the pandemic, and the possibility of new knowledge about the specific characteristics of patients and vaccines becoming available in the short term, the experts have decided to reconvene in September 2009. At this next meeting, a possible broadening of the indication for vaccination, perhaps to include children and adolescents, will be discussed.