



## Swine Flu Vaccination

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A coalition of key stakeholders and staff organisations have issued a joint statement of support for the start of the swine flu vaccination programme. NHS Hospitals will begin vaccinating frontline healthcare workers and their patients who fall into at risk categories against swine flu from today. Around two million frontline health and social care workers will be offered the vaccine.

**CLC frontline staff and Service Users have been included in the priority list for vaccination that is being co-ordinated by our Local Authority partners. Staff can therefore expect to be offered the vaccine soon – further details will be given when we have them.**

The following organisations have unanimously supported the programme:

**British Medical Association (BMA)**  
**Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP)**  
**Royal College of Midwives (RCM)**  
**Royal College of Nursing (RCN)**  
**Royal College of Psychiatrists**  
**Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG)**  
**Royal Pharmaceutical Society of Great Britain**  
**UNISON**  
**NHS Employers**  
**Department of Health**

**CLC also fully supports the programme of vaccination and endorses the following statement which applies equally to our own staff.**

“The NHS depends on the people treating and caring for patients, day in day out – they are our most important asset and we are committed to protecting them and their families during the current swine flu pandemic.

“We fully support the swine flu vaccination programme - it will reduce the risk to staff, protect patients and help sustain services during the pandemic. By the nature of their work, many NHS staff come into close contact with patients and the public and have a higher risk of exposure to the virus.

The vaccine has been thoroughly tested. All NHS organisations will be working hard to ensure that eligible staff are given access to the vaccination to protect themselves, their families and their patients from swine flu.

We encourage staff to protect themselves with the swine flu vaccine, in addition to the seasonal 'flu immunisation. It is your best defence against 'flu this winter.' We also support your right not to be vaccinated, and recognise that the decision to be vaccinated is a personal matter."

**Take from the Royal College of Nursing website dated 27 October 2009.**

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