

South West Public Health

Section 7a Screening & Immunisations

Bulletin



Issue 119: 13th December 2022

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ICARS Newsletter 9/12/2022

Please find this week's ICARS newsletter attached to this email.

Bowel cancer screening awareness slides for GP practices in Dorset

The public health team in Dorset council have created 3 slides/posters aimed at promoting and explaining bowel cancer testing screening. These can be displayed on TV's in waiting areas or printed and pinned onto notice boards. If you are a GP practice in Dorset and you would like a copy of these comms, please e-mail Michael.Pagan@dorsetcouncil.gov.uk.

Lines on the nasal spray flu vaccine and invasive Group A strep infection

Line to take:

“Getting flu and other viral infections can increase the risk of invasive Group A Strep infection in the following weeks. Invasive Group A Strep infections increased during the 2009-10 flu pandemic. The flu vaccine reduces the risk of having flu and group A Strep infections at the same time therefore it reduces the chance of developing invasive Group A Strep. We strongly recommend children who are eligible get a flu vaccine – it's the best way to protect them from serious illness. The flu vaccine for children has an excellent safety record, this includes the nasal spray given to school aged children and pre-schoolers, which has been given to millions of children in the UK and worldwide.”

Background:

- There is no current evidence to suggest that the nasal spray flu vaccine given to children causes iGAS

- We know that children can become infected with invasive group A Streptococcal (iGAS) disease and influenza at the same time, causing a very severe illness. Flu and other viruses may increase the risk of iGAS, therefore we reinforce the recommendation that children who are eligible for influenza vaccination take up the offer.
- iGAS infections increased in England during the 2009-10 influenza pandemic.
- The influenza vaccines given to children have excellent safety records. This includes the nasal spray flu vaccine given to school-aged children and pre-schoolers, which has been given to millions of children in the UK and worldwide. The flu vaccination programme in England first used nasal spray vaccines in children aged 2 and 3 years and in primary schools in pilot areas in 2013 before being rolled out incrementally to older age groups over the past nine years.
- Nasal flu vaccines prevent flu in children who are vaccinated and those around them too.
- The nasal flu vaccine will help prevent influenza which can cause very severe infection.
- The nasal influenza vaccine also therefore reduces the risk of coinfection of influenza and Group A Streptococcal infections, and in turn the potential development of iGAS infections.

You may also be interested in the following UKHSA blog on GAS:

<https://ukhsa.blog.gov.uk/2022/12/05/group-a-strep-what-you-need-to-know/>

Further Information

Back issues of these bulletins and attachments are available on the NHSEI website [here](#). If you have any questions or wish to provide feedback, please contact the Integrated Public Health Team at england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net