



Feidhmeannacht na Seirbhíse Sláinte  
Health Service Executive

National Immunisation Office  
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24<sup>th</sup> March 2010

**Re: Continuation of Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Swine Flu Vaccination Programme for Pregnant Women**

Dear Colleague

As per previous correspondence the Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 Swine Flu Vaccination Programme will conclude on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2010 as the numbers contracting Swine Flu have declined significantly.

However **all pregnant women over 14 weeks gestation, up to 6 weeks post partum and those in the first trimester in the medically at risk groups should continue to be vaccinated.** This is due their risk of serious complications from pandemic flu as well as adverse perinatal outcomes and delivery complications. In addition maternal vaccination may protect the newborn through placental transfer.

Please encourage all pregnant women as above to avail of pandemic vaccination from their General practitioner or at your maternity hospital and supplies of pandemic vaccine will be available in the usual way from the HSE National Cold Chain Service

To date over 1 million people have been received pandemic vaccine and I would like to thank you for your significant contribution to the success of this programme.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Kelleher', written over a horizontal line.

Dr. Kevin Kelleher  
Assistant National Director for Population Health - Health Protection  
Medical Registration Number 19719