



Queensland  
Government

## **URGENT PUBLIC HEALTH ALERT (all GP Divisions)**

The Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer Professor Jim Bishop has advised that children aged five years and under should not receive seasonal influenza vaccination until further notice.

This is due to a higher than expected number of reports of adverse events following seasonal influenza vaccination in young children in Western Australia.

There is no evidence of these reactions following monovalent pandemic (H1N1) human swine influenza vaccination (Panvax®/Panvax junior®)

All children including children at risk of severe influenza should be vaccinated with Panvax®/Panvax Junior® as soon as possible if they have not yet received the recommended course of Panvax®.

Parents of young children who have been vaccinated against influenza in the past 12 hours should be advised to treat the child with paracetamol and to seek medical attention if the child develops a fever that cannot be controlled.

No other vaccines in the childhood programme are affected and these vaccines should be given when due.

Seasonal influenza vaccinations for all other age groups should be continued as per normal, as should the use of the monovalent pandemic (H1N1) human swine influenza vaccination (Panvax®, Panvax Junior®) for those of any age who wish to be protected.

Queensland Health is working with the Commonwealth, other states and territories and the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation to investigate the situation and provide further expert advice.

Immunisation providers are encouraged to report all suspected adverse events following influenza vaccination, especially in young children.

Further information will be provided as soon as possible.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Selvey'.

**Dr Christine Selvey**  
**Senior Director, Communicable Diseases Branch, Queensland Health**  
**23 April 2010**