

Vaccine against the new influenza

Engelska

You have now been vaccinated against the new influenza A(H1N1). In this leaflet you can read more about what this means and where to turn if you have any questions.

About influenza A(H1N1)

Influenza A(H1N1) is a 'pandemic flu' that is currently spreading around the world. Because no one has had this exact influenza before, it is likely that almost no one has immunity to it. This means that significantly more people are at risk of catching it, compared with the normal seasonal influenza.

Symptoms include fever, cough, runny nose, sore throat, headaches and muscle pains. Fatigue is common, while vomiting and diarrhoea are reported in some cases. Symptoms pass after about a week. Some people, such as pregnant women and those with chronic heart and lung disease, are at risk of more serious illness and may suffer complications such as pneumonia.

What happens with the body when you get vaccinated?

When you get vaccinated a small, inactive part of the influenza virus is injected into your body, which the body then uses to produce antibodies against the virus. The vaccine is not strong enough to cause illness, but sufficient for developing resistance to the disease (immunity). If you are exposed to infection after the vaccination, the body's immune defence is already activated to handle the influenza virus, and can quickly neutralise the infectious agent and prevent illness.

What protection does the vaccine provide against influenza A(H1N1)?

The Pandemrix vaccine, which is given for influenza A(H1N1), provides a 90 per cent protection against infection. In other words, the vaccination does not provide complete protec-

tion, but if many people get vaccinated we can still prevent the small minority who lack complete protection against the influenza from being exposed to it.

Are there any side effects?

As with any pharmaceutical, Pandemrix may cause side effects. However, this does not mean that everyone who gets vaccinated experiences them. Possible side effects usually go away without treatment after 1-2 days. Please contact your health care provider if side effects persist or if you experience side effects other than those described below.

- Very common (experienced by at least 1 in 10 of those vaccinated): pain, redness, swelling or hardening at the injection site, headache, fatigue, fever, muscle pain or joint pain.
- Common (experienced by at least 1 in 100 of those vaccinated): heat sensitivity, itching or bruises at the injection site, increased sweating, shivering, influenza-like symptoms, swollen glands in the throat, armpit or groin.
- Less common (experienced by at least 1 in 1000 of those vaccinated): pricking sensation or numbness in hands or feet, sleepiness, dizziness, diarrhoea, vomiting, stomach ache, itching, rash, general malaise, insomnia.

For more information

Please consult the department where you were vaccinated, or contact the 1177 medical care helpline or the health care consultant in your county council. The 1177 medical care helpline can be reached by phone: 1177 or on the website www.1177.se and www.skane.se/1177.

