

## **The reasons we are vaccinating children under 5 years old:**

- 1) Children under 5 years of age have the highest rate of hospitalisation of all the age groups: 140 per 100,000 (compared with 30 per 100,000 for other age ranges)
- 2) 80% of patients sent to hospital who had swine Flu but no pre existing medical conditions were under 5 years of age.
- 3) Children under 5 have the highest rate of admission to Intensive Care Units.
- 4) Although we have only had relatively low number of deaths in UK from Swine Flu, in the US the majority of deaths have been in the under 5s.
- 5) Although 1:3 children in the “hotspots” of Swine Flu (in London and the West Midlands) have developed some immunity, 80% of the population in the South West have no immunity at all.

## **Is it Safe? Yes it is.**

- 1) The Committee on the Safety of Medicines have had no reported complications from the vaccinations to date.
- 2) It is as safe as the seasonal flu vaccination which has been used in children for many years.
- 3) This is true the world over where many millions of doses have been used.
- 4) With such a large vaccination programme involving so many people, some people will become unwell around the time of their vaccination. This does not mean the vaccination is the cause of their illness as there are many other potential causes of illness. The vaccine is not a live vaccine and only contains two protein components of virus shell so that the immune system will recognise the virus when faced with an infection.

Source: Dr Kieran Morgan: Director of Public Health for BANES PCT.  
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