

All Dentists

21 Sep. 18

Dear Practitioner,

Reference: Influenza Vaccine and Tooth Extraction.

The Childhood flu vaccine programme has been operating for a number of years now, offering the intra-nasal Fluenz Tetra vaccine to all pre-school children from the age of 2 years by their GP, and all children in Primary 1-7 in school. Children in at risk groups up to the age of 17 are also offered the Fluenz vaccine provided they have no contra-indications.

Last year and this year the Public Health Agency have heard reports that some parents are being advised that their child should not have flu vaccine if they have a dental extraction booked or the extraction is cancelled if they have had the flu vaccine.

We therefore want to reassure all dentists that the receipt of any vaccine, including the Fluenz vaccine is not a reason to cancel or postpone any kind of dental work or any other surgery. The Fluenz Tetra vaccine is a live vaccine but it is attenuated, so children do not shed the virus and are of no risk to people who have a normal immune system after they are vaccinated. We recommend they avoid contact only with severely immunocompromised people as a precaution. The side effects of the vaccine are very mild and short lived, for example a blocked or runny nose, and most children experience no side effects. Provided the child is well on the day of their dental treatment, we would advise that their treatment does not need to be affected by the fact that they have either just had or are due to have the flu vaccine.

Providing Support to Health and Social Care



If you have any further questions about this, please contact
pha.immunisation@hscni.net

Yours sincerely,

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PHA