**Flu Vaccine Advice and Information**

**Flu Vaccine for Cancer Patients on Systemic Anti-cancer Treatment or Immunotherapy**

People receiving Systemic Anti-Cancer Treatment (SACT), for example, chemotherapy and/or Immunotherapy are at an increased risk of contracting the flu virus.

It is advised that people receiving SACT and/or Immunotherapy should have the flu vaccine.

**Vaccines should either be given before starting your treatment or a couple of days prior to or following a cycle of treatment.**

**Vaccines should be avoided on the day of treatment itself.**

People receiving SACT and/or Immunotherapy should only receive **inactivated** vaccines (non-live vaccine).

NHS England advises that adults should have the flu vaccine two weeks before children who are to receive live flu vaccine via the nasal route.

Family members can receive both live and inactivated vaccines; this offers protection for the person receiving SACT.

**Flu Vaccine and SACT**

All patients who are receiving SACT are advised to have the **seasonal influenza and pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV) vaccines.**

If you are a haematology patient, your haematologist may recommend that your immediate family members also receive the seasonal influenza vaccine. Please speak with your team about this.

We **do not** recommend that you have any live vaccinations during your SACT treatment or for up to 6 months after. For example, shingles (Varicella Zoster), MMR and BCG.

**Flu Vaccine and Immunotherapy**

It is recommended that patients receiving Immunotherapy (on its own or in combination with SACT) should have the **seasonal influenza and pneumococcal polysaccharide (PPV) vaccines.**

We **do not** recommend that you have any live vaccinations during your Immunotherapy treatment or for up to 6 months after. For example, shingles (Varicella Zoster), MMR and BCG.

**Inactivated Vaccines and Live Vaccines**

Inactivated vaccines include:

* Flu vaccine
* Pneumococcal Vaccine

These vaccines are recommended for people receiving SACT and/or Immunotherapy

**Live vaccines should be avoided whilst receiving SACT/Immunotherapy:**

Live vaccines include:

* Varicella Zoster (Shingles)
* MMR
* BCG

**To clarify:**

* **People receiving Immunotherapy and SACT should have the flu and pneumococcal vaccine**
* The vaccine is given at the GP surgery
* Timing of the vaccination is important
* **Only inactivated vaccines for people on Immunotherapy and/or SACT**
* Family members can have both live and inactivated vaccines