



October 6th, 2014

Health staff line up for flu vaccination

South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's nursing chief, Dr Bob Brown, will be at the sharp end of this year's staff flu immunisation campaign, which has just been launched.

All health staff are being encouraged to get immunised against flu to cut the risk of it spreading to patients and colleagues this Winter. Dr Brown will join fellow 'flu champions' and the occupational health team in giving the vaccination to Trust staff at special sessions at South Tyneside District Hospital and at community health venues in Gateshead, South Tyneside and Sunderland.

Dr Brown, Executive Director, Nursing and Patient Safety, said: "Winter is the busiest time of the year for the NHS and it is extremely important in the interests of patient care that our frontline healthcare workers, such as doctors, midwives and nurses, who are more likely to be exposed to the influenza virus through their caring role, have the jab. By protecting themselves and their vulnerable patients, they are also protecting their colleagues and their own families.

"The vaccination is also important for the rest of our staff, both clinical and non-clinical, as it helps to reduce sickness absence so that they can continue to play their part in the delivery of services, ensuring that our patients receive the best possible care."

The flu jab is given free on the NHS as an annual injection to adults and children in 'at risk' groups, who are more likely to develop potentially serious complications of flu. These include anyone over the age of 65, pregnant women, and children and adults with an underlying health condition and with weakened immune systems.

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Pictured above: The photograph shows Dr Bob Brown, South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust's Executive Director, Nursing and Patient Safety, left, with, left to right, staff nurse Laura Brain, ward manager Joanne Falconer, deputy ward manager Jess Johnson and auxiliary nurse James Johnson

Issued on behalf of South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust by Kay Jordan

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