



REMOVAL OF PAGES

The entire pages numbered 1 – 150 are subject to copyright laws.

Access to these documents is by way of inspection only.

RTI RELEASED

Jamie Collins - URGENT APPROVAL: Response to allegations of child death link to swine flu vacc

From: Samantha Keegan
To: ministerial
Date: 13/04/2010 12:09 PM
Subject: URGENT APPROVAL: Response to allegations of child death link to swine flu vacc
CC: Anna Caldwell; KW_JC_EB; Lara McKay; Mgrs
Attachments: QH swine flu vacc issue 100413.doc

Channel 9 is asking about a link between the Sudden Unexpected Death of a 2-yr-old girl on Friday and the child's vaccination against swine flu 24 hours before her death.

Channel 10's News Editor gave me his word he would not run anything on Fri - then ran a short 3 par 'live read' (no vision or interviews).

ABC and Courier Mail agreed not to run anything after I discussed the public health ramifications of children not being vaccinated with them.

An autopsy has been done on the child, but the cause of death is unknown.

Can we please provide this response (approved by CHO) to Alex Smith? He wants it ASAP.

Thanks

Sam

Samantha Keegan
A/Manager (Corporate)
Queensland Health
3235 9461
0437 088 629

RTI RELEASED



REMOVAL OF PAGES

The entire pages numbered 152 – 201 are subject to copyright laws.

Access to these documents is by way of inspection only.

RTI RELEASED

Roger Plastow - Media Enquiry

From: "Caroline Brettingham-Moore" <Caroline.Brettingham@medobs.com.au>
To: <roger_plastow@health.qld.gov.au>
Date: 29/04/2010 11:40 AM
Subject: Media Enquiry

Hi Roger,

As I mentioned on the phone I wanted to confirm some details about the flu shot incident – I cannot confirm these with the medical board as they have a confidentiality clause.

I would like to confirm that Brisbane Dr Amir Mohammad Eskandari has been reported to the Queensland Medical Board for failing to notify Queensland Health of the death of Ashley Jade Epapara on April 9 – less than 12 hours after the seasonal flu jab? (as reported in the Australian).

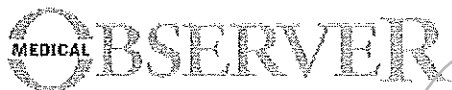
Also would you have a press release about the incident available?

Can anyone comment on time frames for reporting an adverse reaction? What should a GP do if they are not sure?

Your help is very much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Caroline Brettingham-Moore
News Reporter



Medical Observer
BRINGS LIFE TO MEDICINE

Locked Bag 3000, St Leonards NSW 1590 Australia
Ph: (02) 9902 7862
www.medicalobserver.com.au
caroline.brettingham@medobs.com.au

Please don't print this e-mail unless you have to.

Please don't print this e-mail unless you have to.

This message and any attachments are confidential and are solely intended for the use of the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient please contact the sender by reply email. Please also disregard the contents of this email and delete and destroy any copies immediately. UBM Medica Australia Pty Ltd does not accept liability for the views expressed in this email or for the consequences of any computer viruses that may be transmitted with this email. Also subject to copyright, no part of this message should be reproduced or transmitted without written consent.

Roger Plastow - Re: FW: Media Enquiry

From: Roger Plastow
To: Caroline Brettingham-Moore
Date: 29/04/2010 5:00 PM
Subject: Re: FW: Media Enquiry

Caroline

I was informed some time ago that a response had been sent to you. I will check to see what has happened. I have not seen the response but I know it has been done.

Roger Plastow
Acting Director
Media Unit
Queensland Health

Phone: (07) 3234 1439
Mobile: 0429 077 886
Email: roger_plastow@health.qld.gov.au

Level 18
Queensland Health Building
147-163 Charlotte St
Brisbane Q 4000

>>> "Caroline Brettingham-Moore" <Caroline.Brettingham@medobs.com.au> 29/04/2010 4:57 pm >>>
Hi Roger,

I am desperate for a response today. Would you be able to just confirm the Drs name etc:

I would like to confirm that Brisbane Dr Amir Mohammad Eskandari has been reported to the Queensland Medical Board for failing to notify Queensland Health of the death of Ashley Jade Epapara on April 9 less than 12 hours after the seasonal flu jab? (as reported in the Australian).

If you don't have the rest I would just need to confirm this.

Kind Regards,
Caroline

Hi Roger,

As I mentioned on the phone I wanted to confirm some details about the flu shot incident but I cannot confirm these with the medical board as they have a confidentiality clause.

Also would you have a press release about the incident available?

Can anyone comment on time frames for reporting an adverse reaction? What should a GP do if they are not sure?

Your help is very much appreciated.

Kind Regards,

Caroline Brettingham-Moore
News Reporter



Medical Observer
BRINGS LIFE TO MEDICINE

Locked Bag 3000, St Leonards NSW 1590 Australia
Ph: (02) 9902 7862
www.medicalobserver.com.au
caroline.brettingham@medobs.com.au

Please don't print this e-mail unless you have to.

Please don't print this e-mail unless you have to.

This message and any attachments are confidential and are solely intended for the use of the addressee(s). If you are not the intended recipient please contact the sender by reply email. Please also disregard the contents of this email and delete and destroy any copies immediately. UBM Medica Australia Pty Ltd does not accept liability for the views expressed in this email or for the consequences of any computer viruses that may be transmitted with this email. Also subject to copyright, no part of this message should be reproduced or transmitted without written consent.

RTI RELEASE

Inquiry received:

Journalist: Alex Smith

Media organisation: Channel 9

Contact number/s: 3214 9754 or 0412 796 183

Contact email:

Deadline: ASAP

Subject: Allegation of swine flu death (from police source)

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

Queensland Health has not been advised of, and is not aware of any death allegedly related to a Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (human swine flu) vaccination or 2010 seasonal flu vaccination in Queensland.

Queensland Health is not aware of any deaths related to the use of the vaccines being reported in Australia.

In Queensland at 29 March, more than 717,000 doses of swine flu vaccine have been provided with 199 adverse events reported.

As the World Health Organization reported late last year when about 65 million people had been vaccinated globally, "A small number of deaths have occurred in people who have been vaccinated. All such deaths, reported to WHO, have been promptly investigated. Although some investigations are ongoing, **results of completed investigations reported to WHO have ruled out a direct link to pandemic vaccine as the cause of death.**"

For example, in China where more than 11 million doses of pandemic vaccine have been administered, health authorities have informed WHO of 15 cases of severe side effects and two deaths occurring following vaccination.

Thorough investigation of these deaths, including a review of autopsy results, determined that **underlying medical conditions were the cause of death, and not the vaccine.**"
http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/briefing_20091119/en/

Inquiry received:

Journalist: Caroline Brettingham-Moore

Media organisation: Medical Observer

Contact number/s: (02) 9902 7862

Contact email: caroline.brettingham@medobs.com.au

Deadline:

Subject: Flu vaccine

Issue/questions:

As I mentioned on the phone I wanted to confirm some details about the flu shot incident – I cannot confirm these with the medical board as they have a confidentiality clause.

I would like to confirm that Brisbane Dr Amir Mohammad Eskandari has been reported to the Queensland Medical Board for failing to notify Queensland Health of the death of Ashley Jade Epapara on April 9 – less than 12 hours after the seasonal flu jab? (as reported in the Australian).

Also would you have a press release about the incident available?

Can anyone comment on time frames for reporting an adverse reaction? What should a GP do if they are not sure?

Your help is very much appreciated.

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

An incident where a doctor did not notify a death which occurred following a seasonal influenza vaccination has been reported to the Medical Board.

Regarding the time frame, a doctor must report such an incident within 48 hours. If a doctor is in doubt, it is better to report than not report.

The *Public Health Act 2005* and *Public Health Regulation 2005* are clear that an adverse event following vaccination is a "clinical diagnosis notifiable condition" under Schedule 1 of the Regulation. As a result, a doctor is required to notify the Chief Executive of Queensland Health within 48 hours of the examination by fax, email or other electronic means.

You can refer to a Queensland Health media release on the issue at <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/html/media.asp> and a Commonwealth media release at <http://www.health.gov.au/internet/main/publishing.nsf/Content/mr-yr10-dept-dept230410.htm>

ENDS

Media contact: 32341439

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Written by: [KERRY WHITE]

Date: 29 APRIL 2010

Authorised by: [CHO]

Date: 29 April 2010

Inquiry received: 3.10pm

Journalist: Natasha Bitá

Media organisation: The Australian

Contact number/s: 07 3666 7469

Contact email: bitan@theaustralian.com.au

Deadline: ASAP today

Subject: Flu vaccinations

Issue/questions: (1) Please can you tell me if you have any update on the death of the two-year-old Brisbane girl following her seasonal flu vaccination?
(2) Also, please can you give me an update on the number of adverse reactions in Qld children following the seasonal flu shot? I understand this information is already being prepared for the TGA. Also, could you give any breakdown on the reactions – by type and severity, please? (eg febrile convulsions, fever, vomiting ...)
Thanks and best regards

Contact:

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

The death of the two-year-old is a matter for the Queensland Coroner.

(2) As at Wednesday 27 April, 133 adverse reactions had been reported in Queensland after seasonal flu vaccinations, 77 for children five or younger.

The reported reactions were from across Queensland and include fever, vomiting, headache, tiredness and febrile convulsions.

More than 500,000 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine have been distributed to date in Queensland through the funded National Immunisation Program. Vaccine is also provided through private community pharmacies and GPs for other people, but is not part of the funded program.

If a parent is concerned about a child having an adverse reaction to any vaccine they should seek medical advice.

ENDS

Media contact: 3234 1439

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - FOR APPROVAL: Query from the Australian re: two-yr-old death

From: Samantha Keegan
To: ministerial
Date: 29/04/2010 5:19 PM
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Query from the Australian re: two-yr-old death
CC: KW_JC_EB; Lara McKay; Mgrs
Attachments: QH Flu vacc Australian 100429.doc

Hi there,

Please find attached response to this one approved by the CHO.

Can you please let me know if it is OK to go?

s.73 RTI Act

Thanks

Cheers

Sam

Samantha Keegan
A/Manager (Corporate)
Queensland Health
3235 9461
0437 088 629

RTI RELEASE

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Written by: [KERRY WHITE]

Date: 29 APRIL 2010

Authorised by: [CHO]

Date: 29 April 2010

Inquiry received: 3.10pm

Journalist: Natasha Bita

Media organisation: The Australian

Contact number/s: 07 3666 7469

Contact email: bitan@theaustralian.com.au

Deadline: ASAP today

Subject: Flu vaccinations

Issue/questions: (1) Please can you tell me if you have any update on the death of the two-year-old Brisbane girl following her seasonal flu vaccination?
(2) Also, please can you give me an update on the number of adverse reactions in Qld children following the seasonal flu shot? I understand this information is already being prepared for the TGA. Also, could you give any breakdown on the reactions – by type and severity, please? (eg febrile convulsions, fever, vomiting ...)
Thanks and best regards

Contact:

Background (not for publication):

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

The death of the two-year-old is a matter for the Queensland Coroner.

(2) As at Wednesday 27 April, 133 adverse reactions had been reported in Queensland after seasonal flu vaccinations, 77 for children five or younger.

These notifications will be provided to the Commonwealth and the TGA to make an assessment in regards to this vaccine.

The increase in numbers reflects the positive response from vaccine providers to the Commonwealth's calls for them to report any adverse reactions since the vaccine was rolled out in March.

The reported reactions were from across Queensland and include fever, vomiting, headache, tiredness and febrile convulsions.

More than 500,000 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine have been distributed to date in Queensland through the funded National Immunisation Program. Vaccine is also provided through private community pharmacies and GPs for other people, but is not part of the funded program.

If a parent is concerned about a child having an adverse reaction to any vaccine they should seek medical advice.

ENDS

Media contact: 3234 1439

RTI RELEASED

From: "Jade Thompson" <Jade.Thompson@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
To: "Kerry White" <Kerry_White@health.qld.gov.au>, "Roger Plastow" <Roger_Pl...>
CC: "Lara McKay" <Lara_McKay@health.qld.gov.au>, "Thea Phillips" <Thea.Phill...>
Date: 29/04/2010 10:38 pm
Subject: QH Flu vacc Australian 100429.doc
Attachments: QH Flu vacc Australian 100429.doc

RTI RELEASE

Queensland Health
media response



FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Written by: [KERRY WHITE]

Date: 29 APRIL 2010

Authorised by: [CHO]

Date: 29 April 2010

Inquiry received: 3.10pm

Journalist: Natasha Bita

Media organisation: The Australian

Contact number/s: 07 3666 7469

Contact email: bitan@theaustralian.com.au

Deadline: ASAP today

Subject: Flu vaccinations

Issue/questions: (1) Please can you tell me if you have any update on the death of the two-year-old Brisbane girl following her seasonal flu vaccination?

(2) Also, please can you give me an update on the number of adverse reactions in Qld children following the seasonal flu shot? I understand this information is already being prepared for the TGA. Also, could you give any breakdown on the reactions – by type and severity, please? (eg febrile convulsions, fever, vomiting ...)

Thanks and best regards

Contact:

Background (not for publication):

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

The death of the two-year-old is a matter for the Queensland Coroner.

(2) As at Wednesday 27 April, 133 adverse reactions had been reported in Queensland after seasonal flu vaccinations, 77 for children five or younger.

The reported reactions were from across Queensland and include fever, vomiting, headache, tiredness and febrile convulsions.

Queensland Health
media response



More than 500,000 doses of seasonal influenza vaccine have been distributed to date in Queensland through the funded National Immunisation Program. Vaccine is also provided through private community pharmacies and GPs for other people, but is not part of the funded program.

If a parent is concerned about a child having an adverse reaction to any vaccine they should seek medical advice.

ENDS

Media contact: 3234 1439

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - FW: flu shot reactions

From: "Jade Thompson" <Jade.Thompson@ministerial.qld.gov.au>
To: "Naomi Ford" <naomi_ford@health.qld.gov.au>, "Roger Plastow" <Roger_Plastow@health.qld.gov.au>, "Kerry White" <Kerry_White@health.qld.gov.au>, "Jacqui Molensen" <Jacqui_Molensen@health.qld.gov.au>, "Lara McKay" <Lara_McKay@health.qld.gov.au>
Date: 29/04/2010 3:10 PM
Subject: FW: flu shot reactions
CC: "Thea Phillips" <Thea.Phillips@ministerial.qld.gov.au>, "Nicola Hazell" <nicola.hazell@ministerial.qld.gov.au>, "Natalie Patch" <Natalie.Patch@ministerial.qld.gov.au>

Hi guys,

Could you please organise for a response to be provided for Natasha from the CHO as per her query below?

Thanks so much,

Jade.

Jade Thompson
 Media Advisor
 Hon. Paul Lucas MP
 Deputy Premier and Minister for Health
 Queensland Government
 GPO Box 48, Brisbane Q
 P: 322 52475
 M: 0408 701 409
 F: 322 94731
 E: jade.thompson@ministerial.qld.gov.au

From: Bitu, Natasha [mailto:bitan@theaustralian.com.au]
Sent: Thursday, 29 April 2010 2:38 PM
To: Jade Thompson
Subject: flu shot reactions

Dear Jade,

Please can you tell me if you have any update on the death of the two-year-old Brisbane girl following her seasonal flu vaccination?

Also, please can you give me an update on the number of adverse reactions in Qld children following the seasonal flu shot? I understand this information is already being prepared for the TGA. Also, could you give any breakdown on the reactions – by type and severity, please? (eg febrile convulsions, fever, vomiting ...)

Thanks and best regards,

Natasha Bitu

Journalist

The Australian

07 3666 7469

bitan@theaustralian.com.au

www.theaustralian.com.au

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged or confidential information. It is intended solely for the named addressee. If you are not the addressee indicated in this message or responsible for delivery of the message to the addressee, you may not copy or deliver this message or its attachments to anyone. Rather, you should permanently delete this message and its attachments and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments which does not relate to the official business of the sending company must be taken not to have been sent or endorsed by that company or any of its related entities. No warranty is made that the e-mail or attachments are free from computer virus or other defect.

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - FOR APPROVAL: Query from the Australian re: two-yr-old death

From: Samantha Keegan
To: ministerial
Date: 29/04/2010 5:19 PM
Subject: FOR APPROVAL: Query from the Australian re: two-yr-old death
CC: KW_JC_EB; Lara McKay; Mgrs
Attachments: QH Flu vacc Australian 100429.doc

Hi there,

Please find attached response to this one approved by the CHO.

Can you please let me know if it is OK to go?

s.73 RTI Act

Thanks

Cheers

Sam

Samantha Keegan
A/Manager (Corporate)
Queensland Health
3235 9461
0437 088 629

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - URGENT: Media Enquiry

From: Samantha Keegan
To: Kerry White
Date: 29/04/2010 11:49 AM
Subject: URGENT: Media Enquiry
CC: Roger Plastow
Attachments: Fwd: Media Enquiry

Hi Kerry,

Roger suggests you pop down to talk to the CHO about this one.

Can you please take care of it?

Thanks

Sam

RTI RELEASE

From: Roger Plastow
To: Samantha Keegan
CC: Kerry White
Date: 29/04/2010 11:47 am
Subject: Fwd: Media Enquiry
Attachments: Media Enquiry

Samantha

This will need to be discussed with Dr Young, not just by e-mail, if she is available. I'm not sure how much we can say or if we are allowed to say anything but there is a tight turn-around time on this one so we have to get something quickly.

Roger Plastow
Acting Director
Media Unit
Queensland Health

Phone: (07) 3234 1439
Mobile: 0429 077 886
Email: roger_plastow@health.qld.gov.au

Level 18
Queensland Health Building
147-163 Charlotte St
Brisbane Q 4000

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - RE: Questions regarding swine flu vaccination

From: s.47(3)(b)
To: <kerry_white@health.qld.gov.au>
Date: 28/04/2010 4:27 PM
Subject: RE: Questions regarding swine flu vaccination

Kerry

Thank you for taking the time to answer my questions.

Regards,

s.47(3)(b)

Date: Wed, 28 Apr 2010 16:07:17 +1000
 From: Kerry.White@health.qld.gov.au
 To: s.47(3)(b)
 Subject: Questions regarding swine flu vaccination

s.47(3) below is a response to your inquiry.

Regards

Kerry

Kerry White
 Senior Public Affairs Advisor
 Queensland Health
 W: (07) 3225 2754
 (M): 0438 742 179

r is Queensland Health recommending the swine flu vaccination to the whole population or only those more at risk, eg the elderly, children, pregnant women? Everyone over six months. Refer <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/html/media.asp> 23 April 2010: Assurance given on swine flu vaccination and other information on that site

2. Do you know the number of, or have any statistics on, the number of people in Queensland who have had the swine flu vaccination this year? More than 872,000 on latest figures.

3. Does Queensland Health have sufficient supplies of the vaccine to last throughout the winter? Yes.

Today Australia's Chief Medical Officer has told doctors to stop giving the seasonal flu vaccination to children because of adverse reactions in some children aged under five yrs. In relation to this I have a couple of questions:

1. Are there any reported cases of adverse reactions to the seasonal flu vaccination in children in Queensland? As at 6.00pm Tuesday 27 April 2010, 95 adverse reactions have been reported in Queensland after seasonal flu vaccinations, 54 for children five or younger.

2. Have there been any reported reactions in anyone from the swine flu vaccination? 209

3. When will more information be available about what has caused the adverse reactions? The issue is under investigation by a Commonwealth agency, the Therapeutic Goods Administration. Refer <http://www.tga.gov.au/alerts/medicines/flu vaccine.htm>

>>> On 23/04/2010 at 4:19 pm, in message <BAY143-W18ABEED7E8BE97E10E6F0C9070@phx.gbl> s.47(3)(b) wrote:

Hello

My name is s.47(3)(b)

s.47(3)(b) about swine flu, one year on, and how it will affect Australians heading into winter. My deadline is 5pm Tuesday 27th May. I have background information from a media conference on the Australian Science Media Centre website but have a few questions regarding Queensland in particular. They are the following:

- 1. Heading into winter is Queensland Health recommending the swine flu vaccination to the whole population or only those more at risk, eg the elderly, children, pregnant women?**
- 2. Do you know the number of, or have any statistics on, the number of people in Queensland who have had the swine flu vaccination this year?**
- 3. Does Queensland Health have sufficient supplies of the vaccine to last throughout the winter?**

Today Australia's Chief Medical Officer has told doctors to stop giving the seasonal flu vaccination to children because of adverse reactions in some children aged under five yrs. In relation to this I have a couple of questions:

- 1. Are there any reported cases of adverse reactions to the seasonal flu vaccination in children in Queensland?**
- 2. Have there been any reported reactions in anyone from the swine flu vaccination?**
- 3. When will more information be available about what has caused the adverse reactions?**

Thank you for your help and time in answering these question.

Kind regards,

s.47(3)(b)

MSN NZ Travel [Find a way to cure that travel bug](#)

This email, including any attachments sent with it, is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). This confidentiality is not waived or lost, if you receive it and you are not the intended recipient(s), or if it is transmitted/received in error. Any unauthorised use, alteration, disclosure, distribution or review of this email is strictly prohibited. The information contained in this email, including any attachment sent with it, may be subject to a statutory duty of confidentiality if it relates to health service matters. If you are not the intended recipient(s), or if you have received this email in error, you are asked to immediately notify the sender by telephone collect on Australia +61 1800 198 175 or by return email. You should also delete this email, and any copies, from your computer system network and destroy any hard copies produced.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited.

Although Queensland Health takes all reasonable steps to ensure this email does not contain malicious software, Queensland Health does not accept responsibility for the consequences if any person's computer inadvertently suffers any disruption to services, loss of information, harm or is infected with a virus, other malicious computer programme or code that may occur as a consequence of receiving this email.

Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

Check on MSN NZ Money for a hand Feeling the financial pinch?

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - FOR APPROVAL by 12: Qld Flu Vaccs Dow Jones

From: Samantha Keegan
To: ministerial; nicole.rushbrook@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Date: 28/04/2010 9:43 AM
Subject: FOR APPROVAL by 12: Qld Flu Vaccs Dow Jones
CC: KW_JC_EB; Lara McKay; Mgrs
Attachments: QH FLU VACCINE DowJ 100427.doc

Hi there,

This is one which carried over from yesterday, as Christine/the CHO didn't get a chance to look at it until late last night.

If I could have it approved by midday?

The CHO has instructed all queries on the seasonal flu vaccine to go to the Fed CHO today, and if we get requests for updated figures, we'll just give them a total at the end of the day (as we did yesterday).

Regards

Sam

Samantha Keegan
A/Manager (Corporate)
Queensland Health
3235 9461
0437 088 629

RTI RELEASED

Queensland Health
media response



FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Written by: [KERRY WHITE]

Date: 27 April 2010

Authorised by: [Christine Selvey]

Date: 27 April 2010

Inquiry received: 27 April 12.15

Journalist: Neil Sands

Media organisation: Dow Jones/Wall Street Journal

Contact number/s: 0425 261 168 ph: 03 9292 2095

Contact email: neil.sands@dowjones.com

Deadline: ASAP

Subject: Flu vaccination

Issue/questions: I'm just trying to clarify whether or not the coroner, or any other authority, is investigating any link between Ashley Epapara's death and the seasonal flu vaccine? I've seen contradictory reports on this, so wanted to clear it up at the source.

Also, can you tell me how many adverse reactions to the seasonal flu vaccine have been reported to Queensland health authorities and whether the seasonal flu vaccine used in Queensland is CSL Fluvax?

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

The Queensland State Coroner is investigating the cause of death of Ashley Jade Epapara, including the possibility of a link between the death and the seasonal influenza vaccine administered on the day before her death.

Queensland Health is working in collaboration with the State Coroner on this matter.

As at 6.00pm Tuesday 27 April 2010, 95 adverse reactions have been reported in Queensland after seasonal flu vaccinations, 54 for children five or younger.

The number of reports of adverse events following seasonal influenza vaccination has increased since the news that the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer has advised against seasonal influenza vaccination in children aged 5 years and under.

health • care • people

Queensland Health
media response



Around 513,000 doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed to date in Qld through the funded National Immunisation Program. The program is for those who are most at risk of severe influenza – people aged 65 years and over, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 15 years and over, pregnant women and those aged six months and over with medical conditions predisposing them to severe influenza.

Three vaccines are distributed through this national program: CSL Fluvax®, Solvay Influvac® and Sanofi Vaxigrip®.

Vaccine is also provided through private community pharmacies and GPs for other people, but is not part of the funded program.

ENDS

Media contact: 3225 2754

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - QH fLU VACCINE DowJ 100427

From: Christine Selvey
To: Naomi Ford; Samantha Keegan
Date: 28/04/2010 8:29 AM
Subject: QH fLU VACCINE DowJ 100427
CC: HEOC_PHIC; Karen Peterson; Kerry White
Attachments: QH fLU VACCINE DowJ 100427.doc

Hi Sam and Naomi

I've now included the latest figures from yesterday re the number of adverse events reported to QH. These are same numbers that we provided to Jeannette late yesterday afternoon.

Thanks
Christine

RTI RELEASED

Queensland Health
media response



FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Written by: [KERRY WHITE]

Date: 27 April 2010

Authorised by: [CHO Dr Jeannette Young]

Date: 27 April 2010

Inquiry received: 27 April 12.15

Journalist: Neil Sands

Media organisation: Dow Jones/Wall Street Journal

Contact number/s: 0425 261 168 ph: 03 9292 2095

Contact email: neil.sands@dowjones.com

Deadline: ASAP

Subject: Flu vaccination

Issue/questions: from here. I'm just trying to clarify whether or not the coroner, or any other authority, is investigating any link between Ashley Epapara's death and the seasonal flu vaccine? I've seen contradictory reports on this, so wanted to clear it up at the source.

Also, can you tell me how many adverse reactions to the seasonal flu vaccine have been reported to Queensland health authorities and whether the seasonal flu vaccine used in Queensland is CSL Fluvax?

Contact:

Background (not for publication):

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

The Queensland State Coroner is investigating the cause of death of Ashley Jade Epapara, including the possibility of a link between the death and the seasonal influenza vaccine administered on the day prior to the death. Queensland Health is working in collaboration with the State Coroner on this matter

As of Tuesday 27 April 2010, in Queensland 95 adverse reactions have been reported after seasonal flu vaccinations, 54 for children five or younger. The number of reports of adverse events following seasonal influenza vaccination has increased since the news

health • care • people

Queensland Health
media response



that the Commonwealth Chief Medical Officer has advised against seasonal influenza vaccination in children aged 5 years and under.

Through the funded National Immunisation Program, approximately 513,000 doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed to date in Qld. The funded program is for those who are most at risk of severe influenza: those 65 years and over, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 15 years and over, pregnant women and those aged six months and over with medical conditions predisposing them to severe influenza.

Three vaccines are distributed through this national program: CSL Fluvax®, Solvay Inluvac® and Sanofi Vaxigrip®.

Vaccine is also provided through private community pharmacies and GPs for other people, but is not part of the funded program.

ENDS

Media contact: 3225 2754

RTI RELEASED

Kerry White - QH fLU VACCINE DowJ 100427

From: Christine Selvey
To: Naomi Ford; Samantha Keegan
Date: 27/04/2010 10:55 PM
Subject: QH fLU VACCINE DowJ 100427
CC: Karen Peterson; Kerry White
Attachments: QH fLU VACCINE DowJ 100427.doc

HI Sam and Naomi

Please find attached suggested changes to this media response drafted by Kerry (thanks Kerry).

The data on adverse reactions is now up to date - someone from CDB will provide the updated figures first thing in the am.

Cheers
Christine

RTI RELEASE

Queensland Health media response



FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Written by: [KERRY WHITE]

Date: 27 April 2010

Authorised by: [CHO Dr Jeannette Young]

Date: 27 April 2010

Inquiry received: 27 April 12.15

Journalist: Neil Sands

Media organisation: Dow Jones/Wall Street Journal

Contact number/s: 0425 261 168 ph: 03 9292 2095

Contact email: neil.sands@dowjones.com

Deadline: ASAP

Subject: Flu vaccination

Issue/questions: from here. I'm just trying to clarify whether or not the coroner, or any other authority, is investigating any link between Ashley Epapara's death and the seasonal flu vaccine? I've seen contradictory reports on this, so wanted to clear it up at the source.

Also, can you tell me how many adverse reactions to the seasonal flu vaccine have been reported to Queensland health authorities and whether the seasonal flu vaccine used in Queensland is CSL Fluvax?

Contact:

Background (not for publication):

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

The Queensland State Coroner is investigating the cause of death of Ashley Jade Epapara, including the possibility of a link between the death and the seasonal influenza vaccine administered on the day prior to the death. Queensland Health is working in collaboration with the State Coroner on this matter

As of Friday, in Queensland 41 adverse reactions have been reported after seasonal flu vaccinations, 15 for children five or younger, one of whom was hospitalised.

Queensland Health
media response



Through the funded National Immunisation Program, approximately 513,000 doses of influenza vaccine have been distributed to date in Qld. The funded program is for those who are most at risk of severe influenza: those 65 years and over, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people 15 years and over, pregnant women and those aged six months and over with medical conditions predisposing them to severe influenza.

Three vaccines are distributed through this national program: CSL Fluvax®, Solvay Influvac® and Sanofi Vaxigrip®.

Vaccine is also provided through private community pharmacies and GPs for other people, but is not part of the funded program.

ENDS

Media contact: 3225 2754

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - QH fLU VACCINE DowJ 100427

From: Lara McKay
To: White, Kerry
Date: 27/04/2010 3:24 PM
Subject: QH fLU VACCINE DowJ 100427
Attachments: QH fLU VACCINE DowJ 100427.doc

A couple of changes to this version.

Cheers

Lara

RTI RELEASE

Queensland Health media response



FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Written by: [KERRY WHITE]

Date: 27 April 2010

Authorised by: [CHO Dr Jeannette Young]

Date: 27 April 2010

Inquiry received: 27 April 12.15

Journalist: Neil Sands

Media organisation: Dow Jones/Wall Street Journal

Contact number/s: 0425 261 168 ph: 03 9292 2095

Contact email: neil.sands@dowjones.com

Deadline: ASAP

Subject: Flu vaccination

Issue/questions: from here. I'm just trying to clarify whether or not the coroner, or any other authority, is investigating any link between Ashley Epapara's death and the seasonal flu vaccine? I've seen contradictory reports on this, so wanted to clear it up at the source.

Also, can you tell me how many adverse reactions to the seasonal flu vaccine have been reported to Queensland health authorities and whether the seasonal flu vaccine used in Queensland is CSL Fluvax?

Contact:

Background (not for publication):

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

The Coroner is investigating the death of a two-year-old Brisbane girl who had received a seasonal flu vaccination, but at this stage there is no evidence of a link.

As of Friday, in Queensland 41 adverse reactions have been reported after seasonal flu vaccinations, 15 for children five or younger, one of whom was hospitalised.

Through the free Immunise Australia Program 502,000 doses have been distributed. The program is for those who are vulnerable and most strongly recommended to be

health • care • people

Queensland Health
media response



vaccinated: those over 65, Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people over 15 years of age, pregnant women and those aged six months and over with medical conditions predisposing to severe influenza.

Three vaccines are distributed through this national program: CSL Fluvax®, Solvay Influvac® and Sanofi Vaxigrip®.

Vaccine is also provided through pharmacies and GPs for other people, but is not part of the free program.

ENDS

Media contact: 3225 2754

RTI RELEASED

Kerry White - Re: seasonal flu vaccine

From: Samantha Keegan
To: Debbie Guest
Date: 23/04/2010 4:54 PM
Subject: Re: seasonal flu vaccine
CC: Kerry White; Mgrs
Attachments: QH Flu seasonal vacc 100423.pdf

Hi there,

Yes this is correct - have you received the press release?

This is of over half a million doses of the flu vaccine which have gone out through the public system this year, and more through pharmacies etc.

Attaching the release FYI.

Regards

Sam

Samantha Keegan
A/Manager (Corporate)
Queensland Health
3235 9461
0437 088 629

>>> "Guest, Debbie" <guestd@theaustralian.com.au> 23/04/2010 4:48 pm >>>

Hello, below is an excerpt from an AAP story can I please confirm that this is the case, ie. that Queensland Health says there are 41 cases of adverse reactions to the seasonal flu vaccine and that 15 of these are in children 5 or younger and that this is higher than usual?

Cheers,
Debbie.

Queensland Health says there's been 41 cases of adverse reactions to the seasonal flu vaccine in the sunshine state this year. Of those, 15 have been in children aged five years and under, with symptoms including high temperatures and febrile convulsions. One child required hospitalisation but was later released. Queensland's chief health officer, Jeannette Young, said the figures were higher than usual for so early in the flu season. "We are definitely seeing something going on but we don't know what that is," she said. Dr Young said Queensland Health was being "super cautious" but had decided to follow Prof Bishop's advice and suspend immunisation for children under five.

Debbie Guest
Journalist
The Australian
Tel: (61 8) 9326 9876 Mob: 0403 614 468
Email: guestd@theaustralian.com.au
www.theaustralian.com.au

THE AUSTRALIAN ♦
Think. Again.

This message and its attachments may contain legally privileged or confidential information. It is intended solely for the named addressee. If you are not the addressee indicated in this message or responsible for delivery of the message to the addressee, you may not copy or deliver this message or its attachments to anyone. Rather, you should permanently delete this message and its attachments and kindly notify the sender by reply e-mail. Any content of this message and its attachments which does not relate to the official business of the sending company must be taken not to have been sent or endorsed by that company or any of its related entities. No warranty is made that the e-mail or attachments are free from computer virus or other defect.

RTI RELEASE

Queensland Health
media statement



23 April 2010

Assurance given on swine flu vaccination

The Vaccine for Pandemic H1N1 influenza (human swine flu) is safe and effective, Queensland Health said after reports of adverse reactions to a different vaccine in Western Australia.

Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young said Queensland Health would continue with its free school clinic program.

The adverse reactions in Western Australian involve the seasonal flu vaccine and not the human swine flu vaccine.

"The Commonwealth is advising all immunisation providers such as GPs not to administer seasonal flu vaccine to children five years of age and under until further notice," Dr Young said.

"However, that makes it more important for everyone, including children five and under, to be vaccinated against human swine flu either at one of our free school clinics or with their GP.

"The Commonwealth Government has made human swine flu vaccination free for everyone, while seasonal flu vaccination - which is now becoming available - is free only for those aged 65 years and over, all Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people aged 15 years or more, pregnant women and those, six months and older, with certain chronic conditions. (Seasonal flu vaccine protects against human swine flu as well as two other influenza viruses).

"It is important that these people aged six and over continue to be vaccinated against seasonal flu. Children aged 5 years and under with chronic conditions should receive the human swine flu vaccine.

"Until seasonal flu vaccine becomes more readily available, people not yet vaccinated against human swine flu should do so (The vaccine is free but GPs may charge a fee)."

Dr Young said if ever a parent was concerned that a child was having an adverse reaction to any vaccine they should consult their immunisation provider, eg. the school program provider or their doctor, or in an urgent situation call an ambulance or attend an Emergency Department.

.... (2)

health • care • people

Queensland Health
media statement



Assurance given on swine flu vaccination... 2

To date in Queensland around 870,000 human swine flu vaccinations have been carried out, more than 112,000 through the ongoing schools immunisation program. About 200 adverse reactions have been reported.

In Queensland there have been 41 deaths from human swine flu of 191 nationally and 17,800 deaths around the world.

Concerned parents can call 13HEALTH (13 43 25 84).

ENDS

Media contact: 3225 2754

For your information: advice sent earlier to Brisbane media:

**MEDIA CONFERENCE:
Seasonal flu vaccine issue**

When: 1.30pm, today (23 April 2010)

Where: Queensland Health, 147-163 Charlotte Street,
Brisbane (ground floor)

Who: Chief Health Officer Dr Jeannette Young will speak on the seasonal influenza vaccine issue in Western Australia, and the suspension of vaccination for children aged five and under until further notice.

(ends)

health • care • people

From: news
To: Anna Caldwell; Carolyn Varley; Gavin Broomhead; Jacqui Molensen; Jam...
Date: 23/04/2010 12:33 pm
Subject: Fwd: ABC News Online - Flu Story
Attachments: ABC News Online - Flu Story

RTI RELEASE

From: Sandy Griffin
To: news
Date: 23/04/2010 12:33 pm
Subject: ABC News Online - Flu Story
Place: news

Amy Simmons from ABC News Online wants to obtain a comment from QH re flu vaccinations. She wants to know if QH have heard of cases of children receiving flu vaccinations and having bad reactions afterwards.. either in Brisbane or whole of state. Amy's number is 0404925905 COB today is her deadline.

Thanks, Sandy

Sandy Griffin

Executive Support Officer

**Integrated Communications Branch | Office of the Director General |
Queensland Health**

T 07 3234 1135 F 07 3234 1907 Esandy_griffin@health.qld.gov.au

L18 Queensland Health Building 147-163 Charlotte Street Brisbane

GPO Box 48 Brisbane QLD 4001

P Please consider the environment before printing this email

RTI RELEASED

From: "Samantha Keegan" <Samantha_Keegan@health.qld.gov.au>
To: <christine_selvey@health.qld.gov.au>, <kerry_white@health.qld.gov.au>, <...>
CC: <greg_shaw@health.qld.gov.au>
Date: 23/04/2010 8:16 am
Subject: Federal cho announcement on swine flu vacc 4 kids

Hi there,

Heard this previewed on Mad. King for 830 - said have been 44 kids admitted to hosp in WA after vacc.

Could mean the fuss on dead 2 year old after swine flu injection flares up.

May be worth listening to?

Regards

Sam

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - Fwd: Re: Vaccine

From: Michael Rutherford
To: Kerry White
Date: 19/04/2010 3:20 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Vaccine

you are right again!!

>>> Kerry White 19/04/2010 3:19 pm >>>

Michael, we have not referred specifically to this event - we have said only that there have been no deaths reported in Queensland or Australian associated with swine flu vaccination. If any warning were to be issued about a vaccine, it would be issued by the Therapeutic Goods Administration, which has not done so with regard to this vaccine.

Christine, are you happy with this response to the person below?

Regards

Kerry

>>> On 19/04/2010 at 3:08 pm, in message <4BCC71EB.942E.00A7.0@health.qld.gov.au>, Michael Rutherford wrote:

Dear Mr Swine Flu,

This lady, a member of the public who I would say anti-vaccine, asked me why QH had not issued a warning after the death of a 2-y-o from the vaccine. As you can see I responded to her that there was no evidence.

She has come back with more questions. Want to see if Christine would like to respond because I do not know medical answers.

Otherwise, I will simply let it lay until she contacts me again.

>>> s.47(3)(b) 19/04/2010 12:43 pm >>>

Thanks Michael, what was the source of this information? What kind of evidence would prove that the child died from a vaccine adverse event.

Thanks

s.47(3)(b)

On Mon, Apr 19, 2010 at 12:08 PM, Michael Rutherford <Michael_Rutherford@health.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Good morning,

In response to your inquiry about the Ch 10 item of the death of a child the day after she had a swine flu vaccination, I am informed that there is no evidence to conclude the death was in any way related with the vaccination.

This email, including any attachments sent with it, is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). This confidentiality is not waived or lost, if you receive it and you are not the intended recipient(s), or if it is transmitted/received in error.

Any unauthorised use, alteration, disclosure, distribution or review of this email is strictly prohibited. The information contained in this email, including any attachment sent with it, may be subject to a statutory duty of confidentiality if it relates to health service matters.

If you are not the intended recipient(s), or if you have received this email in error, you are asked to immediately notify the sender by telephone collect on Australia +61 1800 198 175 or by return email. You should also delete this email, and any

copies, from your computer system network and destroy any hard copies produced.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited.

Although Queensland Health takes all reasonable steps to ensure this email does not contain malicious software, Queensland Health does not accept responsibility for the consequences if any person's computer inadvertently suffers any disruption to services, loss of information, harm or is infected with a virus, other malicious computer programme or code that may occur as a consequence of receiving this email.

Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

RTI RELEASE SE

Kerry White - Fwd: Re: Vaccine

From: Michael Rutherford
To: Kerry White
Date: 19/04/2010 3:08 PM
Subject: Fwd: Re: Vaccine

Dear Mr Swine Flu,

This lady, a member of the public who I would say anti-vaccine, asked me why QH had not issued a warning after the death of a 2-y-o from the vaccine. As you can see I responded to her that there was no evidence.

She has come back with more questions. Want to see if Christine would like to respond because I do not know medical answers.

Otherwise, I will simply let it lay until she contacts me again.

>>> s. 47(3)(b) 19/04/2010 12:43 pm >>>

Thanks Michael, what was the source of this information ? What kind of evidence would prove that the child died from a vaccine adverse event.

Thanks

s. 47(3)(b)

On Mon, Apr 19, 2010 at 12:08 PM, Michael Rutherford <Michael.Rutherford@health.qld.gov.au> wrote:

Good morning,

In response to your inquiry about the Ch 10 item of the death of a child the day after she had a swine flu vaccination, I am informed that there is no evidence to conclude the death was in any way related with the vaccination.

This email, including any attachments sent with it, is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). This confidentiality is not waived or lost, if you receive it and you are not the intended recipient(s), or if it is transmitted/received in error.

Any unauthorised use, alteration, disclosure, distribution or review of this email is strictly prohibited. The information contained in this email, including any attachment sent with it, may be subject to a statutory duty of confidentiality if it relates to health service matters.

If you are not the intended recipient(s), or if you have received this email in error, you are asked to immediately notify the sender by telephone collect on Australia +61 1800 198 175 or by return email. You should also delete this email, and any copies, from your computer system network and destroy any hard copies produced.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited.

Although Queensland Health takes all reasonable steps to ensure this email does not contain malicious software, Queensland Health does not accept responsibility for the consequences if any person's computer inadvertently suffers any disruption to services, loss of information, harm or is infected with a virus, other malicious computer programme or code that may occur as a consequence of receiving this email.

Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

Kerry White - URGENT APPROVAL: Response to allegations of child death link to swine fly vacc

From: Samantha Keegan
To: ministerial
Date: 13/04/2010 12:09 PM
Subject: URGENT APPROVAL: Response to allegations of child death link to swine fly vacc
CC: Anna Caldwell; KW_JC_EB; Lara McKay; Mgrs
Attachments: QH swine flu vacc issue 100413.doc

Channel 9 is asking about a link between the Sudden Unexpected Death of a 2-yr-old girl on Friday and the child's vaccination against swine flu 24 hours before her death.

Channel 10's News Editor gave me his word he would not run anything on Fri - then ran a short 3 par 'live read' (no vision or interviews).

ABC and Courier Mail agreed not to run anything after I discussed the public health ramifications of children not being vaccinated with them.

An autopsy has been done on the child, but the cause of death is unknown.

Can we please provide this response (approved by CHO) to Alex Smith? He wants it ASAP.

Thanks

Sam

Samantha Keegan
A/Manager (Corporate)
Queensland Health
3235 9461
0437 088 629

Queensland Health media response



Inquiry received:

Journalist: Alex Smith

Media organisation: Channel 9

Contact number/s: 3214 9754 or 0412 796 183

Contact email:

Deadline: ASAP

Subject: Allegation of swine flu death (from police source)

Background (not for publication): claims appear to be uninformed speculation on the part of a police officer involved in responding to child's death last Friday (9 April).

Proposed response:

Please attribute the following to a Queensland Health spokesperson:

Queensland Health has not been advised of, and is not aware of any death allegedly related to a Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (human swine flu) vaccination or 2010 seasonal flu vaccination in Queensland.

Queensland Health is not aware of any deaths related to the use of the vaccines being reported in Australia.

In Queensland at 29 March, more than 717,000 doses of swine flu vaccine have been provided with 199 adverse events reported.

As the World Health Organization reported late last year when about 65 million people had been vaccinated globally, "A small number of deaths have occurred in people who have been vaccinated. All such deaths, reported to WHO, have been promptly investigated. Although some investigations are ongoing, **results of completed investigations reported to WHO have ruled out a direct link to pandemic vaccine as the cause of death.**

For example, in China where more than 11 million doses of pandemic vaccine have been administered, health authorities have informed WHO of 15 cases of severe side effects and two deaths occurring following vaccination.

Thorough investigation of these deaths, including a review of autopsy results, determined that **underlying medical conditions were the cause of death, and not the vaccine.**"

Queensland Health
media response



http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/briefing_20091119/en/

Media contact: 3225 2754

FOR INTERNAL USE ONLY

Written by: [KERRY WHITE]
2010

Date: 13 April

Authorised by: [JEANNETTE YOUNG/CHRISTINE SELVEY]

Date: 13 April 2010

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - Re: AEFI query death - nothing found

From: Christine Selvey
To: Craig Davis; Kerry White
Date: 13/04/2010 11:43 AM
Subject: Re: AEFI query death - nothing found

Thanks very much Craig.

Kerry - confirmation, so response is now cleared.

Thanks
Christine

>>> Craig Davis 13/04/2010 11:42 am >>>
Hi Christine

NOCS has nothing recorded about a death following vaccination. I've checked with Kay Campbell in NOCS data-entry and she has confirmed that she has seen nothing either.

The most recent recorded death was in a 32yo non-Indig female from [s.47(3)] who was notified with [s.47(3)(b)] [s.47(3)(b)] (no vacc hist recorded). This notification was 1 Apr but the death was [s.47(3)]

We did a quick Google and also found nothing.

Regards

Craig

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - Re: Swine flu death allegation - response

From: Jeannette Young
To: Kerry White
Date: 13/04/2010 10:55 AM
Subject: Re: Swine flu death allegation - response

Assuming Christine is ok with it then I am fine thanks

Dr. Jeannette Young
Chief Health Officer
Level 16
Queensland Health Building
147-163 Charlotte St
Brisbane QLD 4000
Phone: 07 3234 1137
Fax: 07 3221 7535
E-mail: Jeannette_Young@health.qld.gov.au

>>> Kerry White 13/04/2010 10:49 >>>

jeannette, would the following be OK with you as a response, at this stage just to Channel 9. regards, Kerry. Queensland Health has not been advised of, and is not aware of any death allegedly related to a Pandemic (H1N1) 2009 (human swine flu) vaccination or 2010 seasonal flu vaccination in Queensland. Nor are we aware that any such event has been referred to the Therapeutic Goods Administration, the responsible authority. Queensland Health is not aware of any deaths related to the use of the vaccines being reported in Australia.

In Queensland, as at 29 March, more than 717,000 doses of swine flu vaccine have been provided with 199 adverse events reported.

As the World Health Organization reported late last year when about 65 million people had been vaccinated globally: A small number of deaths have occurred in people who have been vaccinated. All such deaths, reported to WHO, have been promptly investigated. Although some investigations are ongoing, results of completed investigations reported to WHO have ruled out a direct link to pandemic vaccine as the cause of death.

In China, for example, where more than 11 million doses of pandemic vaccine have been administered, health authorities have informed WHO of 15 cases of severe side effects and two deaths that occurred following vaccination. Thorough investigation of these deaths, including a review of autopsy results, determined that underlying medical conditions were the cause of death, and not the vaccine.

http://www.who.int/csr/disease/swineflu/notes/briefing_20091119/en/

Kerry White - Re: Fwd: Two year old death in Brisbane

From: Russ Schedlich
To: Kerry White
Date: 9/04/2010 1:53 PM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Two year old death in Brisbane
CC: Christine Selvey; Samantha Keegan

Kerry,

The following is the abstract from one of the articles cited in the report that gives some sense of background deaths/illnesses that might be associated with a mass vaccination programme.

Because of the advent of a new influenza A H1N1 strain, many countries have begun mass immunisation programmes. Awareness of the background rates of possible adverse events will be a crucial part of assessment of possible vaccine safety concerns and will help to separate legitimate safety concerns from events that are temporally associated with but not caused by vaccination. We identified background rates of selected medical events for several countries. Rates of disease events varied by age, sex, method of ascertainment, and geography. Highly visible health conditions, such as Guillain-Barré syndrome, spontaneous abortion, or even death, will occur in coincident temporal association with novel influenza vaccination. On the basis of the reviewed data, if a cohort of 10 million individuals was vaccinated in the UK, 21.5 cases of Guillain-Barré syndrome and 5.75 cases of sudden death would be expected to occur within 6 weeks of vaccination as coincident background cases. In female vaccinees in the USA, 86.3 cases of optic neuritis per 10 million population would be expected within 6 weeks of vaccination. 397 per 1 million vaccinated pregnant women would be predicted to have a spontaneous abortion within 1 day of vaccination.

Russ

Dr Russ Schedlich
 State Health Incident Controller
 Pandemic H1N1 2009
 State Population Health Emergency Operations Centre
Russ_Schedlich@health.qld.gov.au

State Population Health Emergency Operations Centre | Queensland Health

15 Butterfield Street
 Brisbane Qld
 Tel: 07 3328-9974
 A/H: 07 3328-9995
 M: 04 1104-2605

Further information can be obtained on the public website at: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/>
 and for QH staff at http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/swine_flu/

>>> Kerry White 9/04/2010 11:22 am >>>

Russ, in this document

at http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/cp164_2009_1612_gacvs_h1n1_vaccine_safety.pdf

it says "Investigation of deaths that have been reported after immunization has identified that the cause of death has been unrelated to vaccination in all but a few instances. There have been a few individual reports of deaths associated with anaphylactic reactions to vaccination." This is the latest info I could find on the subject at WHO.

I wonder if you are aware of or can locate any detail at all on "the few instances"?

Any other points/info would be appreciated in case of inquiries. In Qld it seems on the latest info I can find that we have had 199 adverse events (33 hospitalised) reported from 717,167 immunisations administered.

Regards
Kerry

>>> On 9/04/2010 at 11:08 am, in message <4BBF0AB4.F42A.00A5.0@health.qld.gov.au>, Russ Schedlich wrote:

Kerry,

Thanks. Can you keep me posted if you get any further intel?

Russ

Dr Russ Schedlich
State Health Incident Controller
Pandemic H1N1 2009
State Population Health Emergency Operations Centre
Russ.Schedlich@health.qld.gov.au

State Population Health Emergency Operations Centre | Queensland Health

15 Butterfield Street
Brisbane Qld
Tel: 07 3328-9974
A/H: 07 3328-9995
M: 04 1104-2605

Further information can be obtained on the public website at: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/>
and for QH staff at http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/swine_flu/

>>> Kerry White 9/04/2010 10:53 am >>>
FYI. Sent to Cwllth health media unit for their info.
Cheers
Kerry

>>> On 9/04/2010 at 10:52 am, in message <4BBF06D9.5953.0087.0@health.qld.gov.au>, Kerry White wrote:

Gday all, just to let you know, (UNOFFICIAL) a two year old had died at Mt Gravatt, a Brisbane suburb, with "no suspicious circumstances", we have had a TV inquiry already who says police suggested the only thing different in their lives recently was swine flu vaccination. Police seem to have left this as a possibility for post mortem investigation.

That is all we have at the moment, nothing official yet. Awaiting more detail.

Please advise total number of vaccinations in Australia, adverse events, any deaths attributed? and global?

Regards

Kerry

Kerry White
Senior Public Affairs Advisor
Queensland Health
W: (07) 3225 2754
(M): 0438 742 179

>>> On 9/04/2010 at 9:18 am, in message <OFBF53F51E.416C1E7A-ONCA2576FF.00800D2F-CA2576FF.00800D60@health.gov.au>, <Mediaunit@health.gov.au> wrote:

Media Unit
National Incident Room
Department of Health and Ageing
Canberra
02 6289 7400
mediaunit@health.gov.au

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

RTI RELEASE

**Kerry White - Re: Two year old death in Brisbane [No Protective Marking]
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]**

From: <Mediaunit@health.gov.au>
To: "Kerry White" <Kerry_White@health.qld.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2010 1:37 PM
Subject: Re: Two year old death in Brisbane [No Protective Marking] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
CC: <Mediaunit@health.gov.au>, "Samantha Keegan"
 <Samantha_Keegan@health.qld.gov.au>

Thanks Kerry, and thanks Samantha for setting the coppers straight.

The irony is that I provided a one-hour briefing to reps of all State and Territory Premiers and Police media units about pandemic flu in Adelaide only last week. Part of that presentation included my thoughts on how people in authority (ie. doctors in my case) can totally undermine health programs by making silly comments about perceived safety issues. Perhaps I should have spoken louder.

Oh well. All fixed which is good - thanks for your efforts here.

The TGA stuff on the web is the latest figures. New ones will go up soon. There's not much of an increase in reported AEs in the next report. These numbers of AEs for flu vax are very, very low. It's easily one of the safety vaccines available in the world. There are no reported deaths.

In fact, I've worked here for 15 years and have never had to deal with a confirmed flu death in an Australian. We occasional get suspect deaths (last one I saw was in 2007) but they have always been in very old people who have serious comorbidities and it's never been the vax that kills these people (it's always something much more serious like a heart attack or a stroke because they're very old and very sick).

I've got no info on the few deaths in the WHO report, short of saying they definitely weren't Australians.

Thanks again.

Regards,

Neil

Media Unit
 National Incident Room
 Department of Health and Ageing
 Canberra
 02 6289 7400
 mediaunit@health.gov.au

"Kerry White"
 <Kerry_White@health.qld.gov.au>

To <Mediaunit@health.gov.au>

CC "Samantha Keegan" <Samantha_Keegan@health.qld.gov.au>

09/04/2010 12:55

Subject Re: Two year old death in Brisbane [No Protective Marking] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]

Gday Neil, a police officer apparently made some comment to a Channel 10 reporter about a possible vaccine connection. Samanthas has spoken to police media and got them to put a stopper on that talk, and to Channel 10 who have agreed to go no further, not run anything.

Have you any updated figures on these at TGA

http://www.tga.gov.au/alerts/medicines/h1n1_vaccine1.htm re side effects (presumably no deaths in Australia).

WHO says in this document

at http://www.who.int/csr/resources/publications/swineflu/cp164_2009_1612_gacvs_h1n1_vaccine_s

"Investigation of deaths that have been reported after immunization has identified that the cause of death has been unrelated to vaccination in all but a few instances. There have been a few individual reports of deaths associated with anaphylactic reactions to vaccination." I could find no details on "the few instances".

Just in case, it would be good to have any information you may have.

Regards

Kerry

Kerry White
Senior Public Affairs Advisor
Queensland Health

W: (07) 3225 2754

(M): 0438 742 179

>>> On 9/04/2010 at 11:57 am, in message <OF27217386.626B5DDF-ONCA257700.000A978A-CA257700.000AC33C@health.gov.au>, <Mediaunit@health.gov.au> wrote:

Thanks Kerry,

Much appreciate the heads up. Please keep me posted on this one.

I'm keen to hear if this blows up. Certainly has the potential to seriously undermine the confidence in the program and I'd like to jump on it before it does blow up (if possible)

Regards,

Neil

Media Unit
National Incident Room
Department of Health and Ageing
Canberra
02 6289 7400
mediaunit@health.gov.au

"Kerry White"
<Kerry_White@health.qld.gov.au>

To

09/04/2010 10:50

<Mediaunit@health.gov.au>
cc "Christine Selvey" <Christine_Selvey@health.qld.gov.au>, "Samantha Keegan"
<Samantha_Keegan@health.qld.gov.au>
Subject Two year old death in Brisbane [No Protective Marking]

Gday all, just to let you know, (UNOFFICIAL) a two year old had died at Mt Gravatt, a Brisbane suburb, with "no suspicious circumstances", we have had a TV inquiry already who says police suggested the only thing different in their lives recently was swine flu vaccination. Police seem to have left this as a possibility for post mortem investigation.

That is all we have at the moment, nothing official yet. Awaiting more detail.

Regards

Kerry

Kerry White
Senior Public Affairs Advisor
Queensland Health
W: (07) 3225 2754
(M): 0438 742 179

>>> On 9/04/2010 at 9:18 am, in message <OFBF53F51E.416C1E7A-ONCA2576FF.00800D2F-CA2576FF.00800D60@health.gov.au>, <Mediaunit@health.gov.au> wrote:

Media Unit
National Incident Room
Department of Health and Ageing
Canberra
02 6289 7400
mediaunit@health.gov.au

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

This email, including any attachments sent with it, is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). This confidentiality is not waived or lost, if you receive it and you are not the intended recipient(s), or if it is transmitted/received in error.

Any unauthorised use, alteration, disclosure, distribution or review of this email is strictly prohibited. The information contained in this email, including any attachment sent with it, may be subject to a statutory duty of confidentiality if it relates to health service matters.

If you are not the intended recipient(s), or if you have received this email in error, you are asked to immediately notify the sender by telephone collect on Australia +61 1800 198 175 or by return email. You should also delete this email, and any copies, from your computer system network and destroy any hard copies produced.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited.

Although Queensland Health takes all reasonable steps to ensure this email does not contain malicious software, Queensland Health does not accept responsibility for the consequences if any person's computer inadvertently suffers any disruption to services, loss of information, harm or is infected with a virus, other malicious computer programme or code that may occur as a consequence of receiving this email.

Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - ADVICE re: CH 10 story on child death vaccination link - dropped at this stage

From: Samantha Keegan
To: Ministerial natalie.patch@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Date: 9/04/2010 1:05 PM
Subject: ADVICE re: CH 10 story on child death vaccination link - dropped at this stage
CC: Christine Selvey; KW_JC_EB; Lara McKay; Mgrs

Hi there,

Had a call from Channel 10 about a story they wanted to do on a two-year-old girl who died at Mt Gravatt this morning.

The QAS was called and police attended. There were no suspicious circumstances.

However, someone involved (think it was a police officer) told the journalist the death may have been linked with a flu vaccination given to the child 24-hours before its death, and an autopsy will be performed Monday to rule it out.

I have spoken to police media, who followed up with the area to make sure no further statements of the nature were made and spoke to the CH 10 News Editor about the unlikelihood of a link, and the possible panic such a story could cause.

He has agreed to drop the story at this stage. No other media have called.

Will let you know if anything else comes up.

Regards

Sam

Samantha Keegan
A/Manager (Corporate)
Queensland Health
3235 9461
0437 088 629

**Kerry White - Re: Two year old death in Brisbane [No Protective Marking]
[SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]**

From: <Mediaunit@health.gov.au>
To: "Kerry White" <Kerry_White@health.qld.gov.au>
Date: 9/04/2010 11:58 AM
Subject: Re: Two year old death in Brisbane [No Protective Marking] [SEC=UNCLASSIFIED]
CC: <Mediaunit@health.gov.au>

Thanks Kerry,

Much appreciate the heads up. Please keep me posted on this one.

I'm keen to hear if this blows up. Certainly has the potential to seriously undermine the confidence in the program and I'd like to jump on it before it does blow up (if possible)

Regards,

Neil

Media Unit
National Incident Room
Department of Health and Ageing
Canberra
02 6289 7400
mediaunit@health.gov.au

"Kerry White"
<Kerry_White@health.qld.gov.au>

To <Mediaunit@health.gov.au>
cc "Christine Selvey" <Christine_Selvey@health.qld.gov.au>, "Samantha Keegan"
<Samantha_Keegan@health.qld.gov.au>

09/04/2010 10:50

Subject Two year old death in Brisbane [No Protective Marking]

Gday all, just to let you know, (UNOFFICIAL) a two year old had died at Mt Gravatt, a Brisbane suburb, with "no suspicious circumstances", we have had a TV inquiry already who says police suggested the only thing different in their lives recently was swine flu vaccination. Police seem to have left this as a possibility for post mortem investigation.

That is all we have at the moment, nothing official yet. Awaiting more detail.

Regards

Kerry

Kerry White
Senior Public Affairs Advisor
Queensland Health
W: (07) 3225 2754
(M): 0438 742 179

>>> On 9/04/2010 at 9:18 am, in message <OFBF53F51E.416C1E7A-ONCA2576FF.00800D2F-CA2576FF.00800D60@health.gov.au>, <Mediaunit@health.gov.au> wrote:

Media Unit
National Incident Room
Department of Health and Ageing
Canberra
02 6289 7400
mediaunit@health.gov.au

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

This email, including any attachments sent with it, is confidential and for the sole use of the intended recipient(s). This confidentiality is not waived or lost, if you receive it and you are not the intended recipient(s), or if it is transmitted/received in error.

Any unauthorised use, alteration, disclosure, distribution or review of this email is strictly prohibited. The information contained in this email, including any attachment sent with it, may be subject to a statutory duty of confidentiality if it relates to health service matters.

If you are not the intended recipient(s), or if you have received this email in error, you are asked to immediately notify the sender by telephone collect on Australia +61 1800 198 175 or by return email. You should also delete this email, and any copies, from your computer system network and destroy any hard copies produced.

If not an intended recipient of this email, you must not copy, distribute or take any action(s) that relies on it; any form of disclosure, modification, distribution and/or publication of this email is also prohibited.

Although Queensland Health takes all reasonable steps to ensure this email does not contain malicious software, Queensland Health does not accept responsibility for the consequences if any person's computer inadvertently suffers any disruption to services, loss of information, harm or is infected with a virus, other malicious computer programme or code that may occur as a consequence of receiving this email.

Unless stated otherwise, this email represents only the views of the sender and not the views of the Queensland Government.

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

Kerry White - Re: Fwd: Two year old death in Brisbane

From: Russ Schedlich
To: Kerry White
Date: 9/04/2010 11:08 AM
Subject: Re: Fwd: Two year old death in Brisbane

Kerry,

Thanks. Can you keep me posted if you get any further intel?

Russ

Dr Russ Schedlich
 State Health Incident Controller
 Pandemic H1N1 2009
 State Population Health Emergency Operations Centre
 Russ_Schedlich@health.qld.gov.au

State Population Health Emergency Operations Centre | Queensland Health

15 Butterfield Street
 Brisbane Qld
 Tel: 07 3328-9974
 A/H: 07 3328-9995
 M: 04 1104-2605

Further information can be obtained on the public website at: <http://www.health.qld.gov.au/swineflu/>
 and for QH staff at http://qheps.health.qld.gov.au/swine_flu/

>>> Kerry White 9/04/2010 10:53 am >>>
 FYI. Sent to Cwlth health media unit for their info.
 Cheers
 Kerry

>>> On 9/04/2010 at 10:52 am, in message <4BBF06D9.5953.0087.0@health.qld.gov.au>, Kerry White wrote:

Gday all, just to let you know, (UNOFFICIAL) a two year old had died at Mt Gravatt, a Brisbane suburb, with "no suspicious circumstances", we have had a TV inquiry already who says police suggested the only thing different in their lives recently was swine flu vaccination. Police seem to have left this as a possibility for post mortem investigation.
 That is all we have at the moment, nothing official yet. Awaiting more detail.
 Please advise total number of vaccinations in Australia, adverse events, any deaths attributed? and global?
 Regards

Kerry

Kerry White
 Senior Public Affairs Advisor
 Queensland Health
 W: (07) 3225 2764
 (M): 0438 742 179

>>> On 9/04/2010 at 9:18 am, in message <OFBF53F51E.416C1E7A-ONCA2576FF.00800D2F-CA2576FF.00800D60@health.gov.au>, <Mediaunit@health.gov.au> wrote:

Media Unit
National Incident Room
Department of Health and Ageing
Canberra
02 6289 7400
mediaunit@health.gov.au

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

RTI RELEASE

Kerry White - Two year old death in Brisbane

From: Kerry White
To: Mediaunit@health.gov.au
Date: 9/04/2010 10:50 AM
Subject: Two year old death in Brisbane
CC: Christine Selvey; Samantha Keegan

Gday all, just to let you know, (UNOFFICIAL) a two year old had died at Mt Gravatt, a Brisbane suburb, with "no suspicious circumstances", we have had a TV inquiry already who says police suggested the only thing different in their lives recently was swine flu vaccination. Police seem to have left this as a possibility for post mortem investigation.

That is all we have at the moment, nothing official yet. Awaiting more detail.

Regards

Kerry

Kerry White
Senior Public Affairs Advisor
Queensland Health
W: (07) 3225 2754
(M): 0438 742 179

>>> On 9/04/2010 at 9:18 am, in message <OFBF53F51E.416C1E7A-ONCA2576FF.00800D2F-CA2576FF.00800D60@health.gov.au>, <Mediaunit@health.gov.au> wrote:

Media Unit
National Incident Room
Department of Health and Ageing
Canberra
02 6289 7400
mediaunit@health.gov.au

"Important: This transmission is intended only for the use of the addressee and may contain confidential or legally privileged information. If you are not the intended recipient, you are notified that any use or dissemination of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you receive this transmission in error please notify the author immediately and delete all copies of this transmission."

Kerry White - Death of two-year-old Mt Gravatt - allegedly following flu injection

From: Samantha Keegan
To: Naomi Ford
Date: 9/04/2010 10:28 AM
Subject: Death of two-year-old Mt Gravatt - allegedly following flu injection
CC: Gavin Broomhead; Jacqui Molensen; KW_JC_EB; Michael Rutherford; Roger Plastow

Hi there,

Channel 10 have rung saying they have been informed by a very reliable source a 2-year old has died following some kind of flu vaccination.

Sounds a bit suspect as they said QPS is 'aware' - Police media know nothing.

Christine Selvey is looking into it from the PHU perspective - can we check with QEII, PA and Logan to see if they've heard anything please?

Thanks

Sam

Samantha Keegan
A/Manager (Corporate)
Queensland Health
3235 9461
0437 088 629

RTI RELEASE

Jamie Collins - ADVICE re: CH 10 story on child death vaccination link - dropped at this stage

From: Samantha Keegan
To: Ministerial.natalie.patch@ministerial.qld.gov.au
Date: 9/04/2010 1:05 PM
Subject: ADVICE re: CH 10 story on child death vaccination link - dropped at this stage
CC: Christine Selvey; KW_JC_EB; Lara McKay; Mgrs

Hi there,

Had a call from Channel 10 about a story they wanted to do on a two-year-old girl who died at Mt Gravatt this morning.

The QAS was called and police attended. There were no suspicious circumstances.

However, someone involved (think it was a police officer) told the journalist the death may have been linked with a flu vaccination given to the child 24-hours before its death, and an autopsy will be performed Monday to rule it out.

I have spoken to police media, who followed up with the area to make sure no further statements of the nature were made and spoke to the CH 10 News Editor about the unlikeliness of a link, and the possible panic such a story could cause.

He has agreed to drop the story at this stage. No other media have called.

Will let you know if anything else comes up.

Regards

Sam

Samantha Keegan
A/Manager (Corporate)
Queensland Health
3235 9461
0437 088 629

RTI RELEASED