

DRAFT TEXT OF POSSIBLE LETTER TO BE SENT TO REGISTERED
POULTRY PREMISES/ UNITS WITH 50 OR MORE BIRDS

Dear

I am writing to you, as a registered poultry keeper of more than 50 birds, to advise you that you and your workers at your poultry premise/ unit may be entitled to a free seasonal flu jab as part of the Department of Health, Social Services & Public Safety's seasonal influenza immunisation of poultry workers programme.

The free flu vaccination is available to poultry workers working in a registered premise/ unit with 50 or more birds **and** who satisfy certain criteria, i.e. workers who

- spend a lot of time in areas where poultry are kept for rearing or egg production purposes
- handle live poultry
- catch poultry in poultry houses
- sort eggs in poultry houses
- clean poultry houses
- collect and remove poultry manure or litter from poultry houses
- slaughter poultry and remove the guts and other parts from dead poultry
- clean and disinfect live bird and evisceration areas in slaughter houses

Seasonal flu vaccine protects against seasonal influenza and does not protect against avian (bird) flu. By protecting poultry workers against human flu, the very slight risk that the worker could catch human flu and bird flu at the same time is reduced. If a poultry worker became infected with both human and bird flu viruses at the same time, then there is a very slight risk that the two viruses could mix in their body to create a new and potentially serious flu virus with pandemic potential.

Seasonal flu is an illness caused by a virus. Because flu viruses are always changing, people need the new vaccine each year. You are recommended to have your free flu jab before the end of March 2007.

I attach some information 'if you work with poultry', which you may find useful. If you or your fellow workers wish to proceed with flu vaccination please contact [**insert local arrangements**].

Yours faithfully