

# Free Flu Vaccine for all children and their families

Date (11.00 13.30)	Location of free family clinics
May 12 <sup>th</sup>	Robina Community Centre
May 19 <sup>th</sup>	Helensvale Library
May 26 <sup>th</sup>	Broadbeach Library
June 9 <sup>th</sup>	Robina Community Centre
June 16 <sup>th</sup>	Helensvale Library
June 23 <sup>rd</sup>	Broadbeach Library

After hundreds of healthy young children were hospitalised with influenza last year and a number of them died, the Queensland Government is providing free influenza vaccine this year.

Children must be protected this year. Please bring the family to a free community clinic.

Other clinic times are also available.

Search: ImmuniseGC free clinics



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## Flu kills three young children

PETA RULE and DEBBIE GUEST

Three children have been killed by the flu in Perth in the past few days, prompting experts to issue an urgent warning that parents should take their children to the doctor as soon as they show signs of the illness.

The three children were all under five and lived in the metropolitan area. It is understood each of them died within 24 hours of showing the first signs of the flu, which doctors say was a form of the common influenza A strain. They warned that listlessness, cough and fever were the key symptoms parents should look for and urged them to seek medical advice immediately.

"While we do not want to create unnecessary panic, it is important for parents to be aware that the disease can cause serious illness within 24 hours," Health Department director of communicable disease control Paul Monaghan said last night.

Doctors across the State have been warned that they may be inundated by worried parents, prompting the Health Department to advise them of the details of the deaths.

Australian Medical Association president Geoff Dobb said influenza A strain was one of the most common during winter and that West Australians were particularly vulnerable because it had been several years since the last flu epidemic.

He said parents should not be worried if their children simply had a runny nose and headache, though they should look out for a fever above 38C.

"The critical thing is the combination of a fever and a cough," he said. "What we're talking about here is not just having a runny nose and feeling unwell, often people refer to that loosely as having the flu. A true influenza will make you feel really unwell, more severe with cough fever and muscular aches and pain."

He said that unlike the flu, people



Vaccination is safe, effective and free.