



Sir Bobby Charlton To Spearhead Poster Campaign Against Flu

Soccer legend Sir Bobby Charlton is supporting an NHS drive to encourage people aged over 65 and younger people, including children, with a range of risk factors to ensure that they protect themselves by having a flu jab.

The World Cup winner who represented England 106 times, scoring 49 goals, was given his flu jab at Manchester United's Old Trafford Stadium.

Now Sir Bobby is to spearhead a poster campaign run by Trafford's Primary Care Trusts and supported by the Greater Manchester Health Protection Unit to encourage others to follow his example.

Sir Bobby said: "I was desperately keen to be immunised because I didn't want to miss any soccer matches this winter and I would urge anyone aged over 65 to do the same.

"Flu is a particularly nasty viral infection that carries real risks, particularly to older people, but also to younger people with other underlying health problems. As flu jabs are easily obtainable and free of charge to those who need them, there is no excuse for people not being immunised. It is definitely our best defence.

"We owe it to our families, as well as to ourselves, to do everything we can to remain fit, well and healthy and that is why I was delighted to support the two Trafford Primary Care Trusts and the Greater Manchester Health Protection team in their campaign to keep flu at bay this winter."

Working with the Trafford PCT's and Greater Manchester Health Protection Unit, Consultant Dr. Rosemary McCann said: "We are enormously grateful to Sir Bobby for supporting our campaign, appearing on the posters and promoting the fact that he has had a flu jab.

"It will help us get across the message that even fit, healthy former athletes need the protection of immunisation. Everyone aged over 65 or with an

underlying medical condition should follow Sir Bobby's lead and get their immunisations now."

Note to editors

Flu vaccination is recommended for:

- People aged 65 or over
- People of all ages living in nursing or residential homes.
- People of all ages, including children, who suffer from chronic heart disease, chronic respiratory disease such as asthma, chronic renal failure, diabetes or lowered immunity to infection as a result of treatment or disease.