

Flu Newsletter: Issue 1

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Groups included in the national flu immunisation programme – Published 31/7/20

Summary of those who are recommended to have the flu vaccine

- everyone aged 65 and over
- everyone under 65 years of age who has a medical condition listed on page 4, including children and babies over six months of age
- all pregnant women, at any stage of pregnancy
- all two- and three- year-old children (provided they were aged two or three years old on 31 August of the current flu season)
- all children in primary school
- all Year 7 secondary school-aged children
- everyone living in a residential or nursing home
- everyone who cares for an older or disabled person
- household contacts of anyone on the NHS Shielded Patient List
- all frontline health and social care workers



For advice and information about the flu vaccination, speak to your GP, practice nurse or pharmacist.

More people will be offered the free flu vaccine later in the autumn. To check if you are eligible go to nhs.uk/flu vaccine.

It is best to have the flu vaccination in the autumn before any outbreaks of flu. Remember that you need it every year, so don't assume you are protected because you had one last year.



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NOTE: Those aged 50-64 will be offered Flu vaccines later in Nov/Dec dependent upon vaccine supply.

Vaccinating staff in the GP practice – a written instruction is advised

A written instruction for seasonal influenza vaccination is a way that organisations can offer employee seasonal 'flu vaccinations within the legislation.

The written instruction can be adopted by organisations following the signed authorisation of the written instruction by an appropriate doctor. This medical signatory must be the doctor assuming responsibility for the delivery of the influenza vaccination programme to staff within an organisation; this should be an Occupational Health Physician employed by the organisation but where there is no such doctor employed/contracted by the organisation it should be the doctor assuming responsibility for the delivery of the influenza vaccination programme to staff within the organisation (for example the organisation's Medical Director or a GP partner).

Once signed and adopted it allows named registered nurses to administer the seasonal influenza vaccination to the organisation's staff, including as a peer to peer vaccinator. Immunisers must be trained and competent to work in accordance with the written instruction.

A written instruction template and further information is available [here](https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/written-instruction-for-the-administration-of-seasonal-flu-vaccination/) (<https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/written-instruction-for-the-administration-of-seasonal-flu-vaccination/>).

PPE

Updated guidance has just been released on the use of PPE during COVID. The guidance states in some clinical outpatient settings, such as vaccination/injection clinics, where contact with individuals is minimal, the need for single use PPE items for each encounter, for example, gloves and aprons is not necessary. Gloves and aprons are recommended when there is (anticipated) exposure to blood/body fluids or non-intact skin. Staff administering vaccinations/injections must apply hand hygiene between patients and wear a sessional facemask. Therefore, it is important that either hand washing facilities or sufficient hand sanitiser is available to staff vaccinating patients and they will also need access to gloves and aprons, if necessary.

Capacity planning

We sent out to practices a flu capacity planning book. This is a tool that can assist with identifying any gaps in ability to vaccinate all eligible patients. Remember that patients aged 50-64 who do not fall into an at-risk group should be asked not to book their flu vaccinations yet as the National guidance is that this cohort will be vaccinated from November at the earliest provided there are enough vaccines available.

On using the capacity book, you can adjust variables such as the time per vaccine, session times and number of staff vaccinating. This can then give you an idea of what the gap in provision is in terms of numbers of vaccines and time. We therefore encourage you to use

this tool as part of your planning for the flu vaccination clinics. Please remember that community pharmacies are another provider who can help you achieve the target population for vaccinating and so for patients who you know you will not have sufficient vaccine for you can of course request them to make an appointment with their local pharmacy, or indeed collaborate with your local pharmacies to agree which patients should be targeted by yourselves and which should be targeted by the pharmacies.

In planning your flu clinics, you can also consider utilising the time put aside for the GP shutdowns on 30th September and 29th October – **provided** that the flu clinic **does not** negatively impact on the ability of staff, who are eligible and required, to attend shutdown sessions.

CQC and alternative models of delivery

CQC have published details for providers who are thinking about and planning the ways in which they will deliver flu vaccinations for winter 2020/21. Models for delivery could look different to usual as a result of the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic and have given examples of registration requirements for various scenarios.

For the model/example that we understand many practices have been looking at is a "drive to" delivery in a large car park. CQC advise the following: -

Vaccination site: in premises which have not been used for the carrying on of a regulated activity (for example a car park). The location:

- is not listed in your conditions of registration or any other CQC registered provider
- will only be used as a vaccination site
- healthcare professionals bring equipment and records to carry out vaccinations and remove them at the end of the session. (No medical equipment or medicines are held on site.)

You will not need to make any application to vary your registration.

If you are responsible (as a lead practice), you will need to:

- update your statement of purpose to tell us you are running the vaccination site as a 'satellite' of your own practice.

Groups of practices could work together at such sites to deliver flu vaccinations to patients from any practice within the group. This would include groups in a Primary Care Network. In these cases, the group could either:

- identify the lead practice responsible for the regulated activity. Only this practice should update their statement of purpose to tell us they are running the vaccination site as a 'satellite' of their own practice

or

- all the practices share responsibility. They should all update their statement of purpose to tell us they are running the vaccination site as a 'satellite' of their own practice

For other model examples, please refer to the CQC webpage for full details.

Training resources

- Flu immunisation e-learning programme - An interactive [flu immunisation e-learning programme \(https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/flu-immunisation/\)](https://www.e-lfh.org.uk/programmes/flu-immunisation/), updated with the 2020/2021 influenza season information. The resource is written by PHE, and produced by Health Education England's e-Learning for Healthcare, is available for anyone involved in delivering the flu immunisation programme
- Wales e-learning programme (<http://www.wales.nhs.uk/sitesplus/888/page/70069>)
- Video from NHS Education for Scotland [for health professionals on how to administer the LAIV vaccine \(https://vimeo.com/100497077\)](https://vimeo.com/100497077).
- AstraZeneca RCN [Accredited eLearning resource for the LAIV \(https://www.fluenztetra.co.uk/training\)](https://www.fluenztetra.co.uk/training)

Useful tips

PharmaOutcomes – Please ensure that you allow PharmaOutcomes notifications to your practices from community pharmacies. You will be sent a task into your clinical system when a patient has received a vaccination from a pharmacy and this enables you to update your records and avoids the risk of patient being vaccinated twice. Please see [LINK \(https://midessexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation/flu-resources\)](https://midessexccg.nhs.uk/medicines-optimisation/flu-resources) for further information.

Useful Resources

RCGP has released a great logistics guide for mass vaccination clinics
https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/pluginfile.php/149506/mod_page/content/75/Mass%20Vaccination%20at%20a%20time%20of%20COVID%20V2.0.pdf

Wessex LMC have some useful resources on their website
<https://www.wessexlmcs.com/flu202021>

National patient information on Flu vaccination
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-who-should-have-it-this-winter-and-why>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability>

Advice from the Royal College of Nursing <https://www.rcn.org.uk/beat-the-flu/flu-vaccinations-advice>