



Public Health
England

2020/21 FLU VACCINATION TOOLKIT FOR GP PRACTICES

**FROM THE SOUTH EAST SCREENING &
IMMUNISATION TEAMS**

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The National Flu Vaccination Programme

KEY MESSAGES for 2020/21



- In light of the risk of flu and COVID-19 co-circulating this winter, this year's flu immunisation programme will be absolutely essential to protecting vulnerable people and supporting the resilience of the health and care system
- As indicated in the Flu Letters, providers should focus on achieving maximum uptake of the flu vaccine in existing eligible groups, as they are most at risk from flu or in the case of children transmission to other members of the community. The uptake ambitions for the existing cohorts are all at 75%
- This year as part of wider planning for winter, the government's ambition is to further extend the flu vaccine programme in November and December to include the 50-64 year old age group subject to vaccine supply
- This extension will be phased to allow practices to prioritise those in at risk groups first
- To reflect the need to achieve maximum coverage this year, all Hospital Trusts will be asked to offer vaccinations to pregnant women attending maternity appointments and to those clinically at risk eligible patients attending in- and out-patient appointments

Contractual requirements

- The Directed Enhanced Service (DES) specification for seasonal influenza and pneumococcal immunisation sets out all eligible groups for vaccination. The DES can be found at: www.england.nhs.uk/gp/investment/gp-contract/
- There is a separate Enhanced Service (ES) specification for the childhood seasonal influenza vaccination programme, covering the vaccination of children aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2020. The ES can be found at: www.england.nhs.uk/gp/investment/gp-contract/
- General practices are reminded that both the DES and ES specifications require a proactive call and recall system to contact all at risk patients
- GP practices should also proactively call 2- and 3-year-olds. This year the national Childhood Health Information System (CHIS) service specification has been revised to include issuing an early communication to advise parents/carers of all eligible 2- and 3-year-olds that they should access the flu vaccination from their GP practice. These communications are designed to support local call and recall initiatives. It is important that all children are given early protection through the flu vaccine, and GP practices should aim to complete flu vaccination **by the end of November at the latest.**

2020/21 Flu Immunisation Programme National Policy

Annual Tripartite Flu Letters

- 1st flu letter published on the 14th May 2020:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/885281/The_national_flu_immunisation_programme_2020_to_2021.pdf

Summary

- Eligibility criteria for 2020/21
- Providers to schedule flu clinics to match vaccine supply – usually from September and aim to complete by November
- Call/recall requirement for at risk groups as per flu service specification (DES and Childhood Flu LES)
- List of recommended vaccines for this flu season
- Immform vaccine ordering for the children's programme
- Information and training resources for health professionals and PGDs

2020/21 Flu Immunisation Programme

National Policy

2nd flu letter published on the 5th August 2020

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907149/Letter_annualflu_2020_to_2021_update.pdf

Summary

- Explains cohort expansion – more guidance on 50-64 year olds expected in November
- Primary focus on achieving high uptake in existing eligible cohorts by the end of November
- Uptake ambitions at 75% for existing eligible cohorts
- Household contacts of shielded patients eligible for a flu vaccine
- Hospital Trusts to also deliver flu vaccinations to patients in a clinical risk group
- Inactivated flu vaccine **may** be offered as an alternative for those refusing LAIV due to the porcine gelatine content
- Healthcare workers – 100% offer and maximise uptake in this cohort
- Community Pharmacies eligible to vaccinate care home residents and staff in the home setting in a single visit

In 2020/21, flu vaccinations will be offered under the NHS flu vaccination programme to the following groups:

- all children aged two to eleven (but not twelve years or older) on 31 August 2020
- people aged 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2021)
- those aged from six months to less than 65 years of age, in a clinical risk group
- all pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)
- household contacts of those on the NHS Shielded Patient List, or of immunocompromised individuals, specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation with a shielded patient on most days over the winter and therefore for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable
- people living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality. This does not include, for instance, prisons, young offender institutions, university halls of residence, or boarding schools (except where children are of primary school age or secondary school Year 7).
- those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill
- health and social care staff, employed by a registered residential care/nursing home or registered domiciliary care provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza

In 2020/21, flu vaccinations will be offered under the NHS flu vaccination programme to the following groups:

- health and care staff, employed by a voluntary managed hospice provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza.
- health and social care workers employed through Direct Payments (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants, to deliver domiciliary care to patients and service users.
- Additionally, in 2020/21, flu vaccinations might be offered under the NHS flu vaccination programme to the following groups:

individuals between 50-64 years, following prioritisation of other eligible groups and subject to vaccine supply

- Organisations should vaccinate all frontline health and social care workers, in order to meet their responsibility to protect their staff and patients and ensure the overall safe running of services.
- **The list above is not exhaustive, and the healthcare professional should apply clinical judgement to take into account the risk of flu exacerbating any underlying disease that a patient may have, as well as the risk of serious illness from flu itself.**
- Healthcare practitioners should refer to the influenza chapter in 'Immunisation against infectious disease' (the "Green Book") for further detail about clinical risk groups advised to receive flu immunisation and for full details on advice concerning contraindications and precautions for the flu vaccines. This can be found at:
www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book

Summary table of which influenza vaccines to offer

Eligible group	Type of flu vaccine
At risk children aged from 6 months to less than 2 years	Offer QIVe. LAIV and QIVc are not licenced for children under 2 years of age.
At risk children aged 2 to under 18 years	Offer LAIV If LAIV is contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QIVe to children less than 9 years of age. • QIVc should ideally be offered to children aged 9 years and over who access the vaccine through general practice. Where QIVc vaccine is unavailable, GPs should offer QIVe. • It is acceptable to offer only QIVe to the small number of children contraindicated to receive LAIV aged 9 years and over who are vaccinated in a school setting.
Aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2020 All primary school aged children and those in Year 7 (aged 4 to 11 on 31 August 2020)	Offer LAIV If child is in a clinical risk group and is contraindicated to LAIV (or it is otherwise unsuitable) offer inactivated influenza vaccine (see above). For children not in at risk groups, this year if a parent refuses LAIV in some areas an alternative QIVe or QIVc vaccine may be offered to them where possible.
At risk adults (aged 18 to 64), including pregnant women	Offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QIVc • QIVe (as an alternative to QIVc)
Those aged 65 years and over	Offer: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aTIV* should be offered as it is considered to be more effective than standard dose non-adjuvanted trivalent and egg-based quadrivalent influenza vaccines. • QIVc is suitable for use in this age group if aTIV is not available. <p>* It is recommended that those who become 65 before 31 March 2021 are offered aTIV 'off-label'</p>

All influenza vaccines marketed in the UK for the 2020 to 2021 season

Supplier	Name of product	Vaccine type	Age indications	Ovalbumin content micrograms/dose	Contact details
AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Fluenz® Tetra	Quadrivalent LAIV (live attenuated influenza vaccine) supplied as nasal spray suspension	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	Less than 0.024 micrograms per 0.2 ml dose	0845 139 0000
GSK	Fluarix Tetra	QIVe (standard egggrown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), split virion, inactivated	From 6 months	Equal to or less than 0.05 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0800 221 441
MASTA	Quadrivalent Influenza vaccine ▼	QIVe (standard egggrown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), split virion, inactivated	From 6 months	Equal to or less than 0.05 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0113 238 7552
Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines	Quadrivalent Influenza vaccine ▼	QIVe (standard egggrown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), split virion, inactivated	From 6 months	Equal to or less than 0.05 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0800 854 430
Mylan	Quadrivalent Influvac® sub-unit Tetra ▼	QIVe (standard egggrown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), surface antigen, inactivated	From 3 years	Equal to or less than 0.1 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0800 358 7468
Seqirus UK Ltd	Flucelvax® Tetra ▼	QIVc (cell-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), surface antigen, inactivated	From 9 years	Egg-free	08457 451 500
Seqirus UK Ltd	Adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza	aTIV (egg-grown trivalent influenza vaccine), surface antigen, inactivated	From 65 years	Equal to or less than 0.2 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	08457 451 500

Children eligible for flu vaccination in 2020/21

- All two- and three-year olds continue to be offered flu vaccination through GP practices
- At risk children aged 6 months to under 18 years
- All primary school aged children and those in Year 7 (aged 4 to 11 on 31 August 2020)
- At risk children in the school age cohort can also receive their flu vaccination in general practice if the school session is late in the season, parents prefer it, or if they miss the session at school
- 0-19 Immunisation Team will refer at risk children in whom LAIV is contraindicated to their GPs to receive an inactivated flu vaccine. GP practices will be notified so that they can invite those children
- At risk children in a clinical risk group and aged 9 years who have not been previously vaccinated against influenza will require a 2nd dose whether given LAIV or inactivated flu vaccine.
- offer an alternative quadrivalent flu vaccine if parents refuse LAIV due to porcine gelatine (from November)



Childhood flu immunisation PHE Resources

- **PHE Training slides**

<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/350113940/The+childhood+flu+immunisation+programme+for+2020+to+2021+slideset.pptx/90d44b5b-ed6-04be-55e8-8e951a70350b?t=1597743166510>

- Increasing influenza immunisation uptake among children. **Best Practice Guidance for General Practice**. Available at www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/annual-flu-programme
- **Leaflets and posters** prepared specifically for the childhood flu programme. Available at: www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england/series/annual-flu-programme
- **A video for health professionals** on how to administer the live vaccine produced by NHS Education for Scotland. Available at www.nes.scot.nhs.uk/education-and-training/by-theme-initiative/public-health/health-protection/seasonal-flu/childhood-seasonal-flu-vaccination-programme-resources-for-registered-practitioners.aspx

VACCINES FOR THE ADULT FLU PROGRAMME

For those aged 65 and over, offer

- **aTIV should be offered as it is considered to be more effective** than standard dose non-adjuvanted trivalent and egg-based quadrivalent influenza vaccines.
- QIVc is **only** suitable for use in this age group **if aTIV is not available**.

It is recommended that those who become 65 before 31 March 2021 are offered aTIV 'off-label'.

At risk adults (aged 18 to 64), including pregnant women, offer

- QIVc
- QIVe (as an alternative to QIVc)

PHE Training Resources available for Healthcare Professionals

The national flu immunisation programme 2020/21 - Training recommendations for healthcare practitioners

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-training-recommendations>

The national flu immunisation programme 2020/21 slidesets – adults and children

<https://khub.net/documents/135939561/350113940/The+national+flu+immunisation+programme+for+2020+to+2021+slideset.pptx/b4ba1e7f-41c8-d7fb-c8bc-ff23dc7ef3fc?t=1597743114551>

VACCINE UPTAKE AMBITIONS IN 2020/21



Eligible groups	Uptake ambition
Aged 65 years and over	At least 75%
In clinical at risk group	At least 75%
Pregnant women	At least 75%
Children aged 2 and 3 year old	At least 75%
All primary school aged children and school year 7 in secondary school	At least 75%
Frontline health and social care workers	100% offer

TIMING IS SO IMPORTANT

- Vaccination should be given in sufficient time to ensure patients are protected before flu starts circulating
- All those eligible should be given flu vaccination as soon as possible so that individuals are protected when flu begins to circulate. Providers should aim to schedule their immunisation services to match vaccine supply, **usually from September, and complete vaccination by the end of November, where possible.**
- If an eligible patient presents late for vaccination it is generally appropriate to still offer it. This is particularly important if it is a late flu season or when newly at risk patients present, such as pregnant women who may not have been pregnant at the beginning of the vaccination period.
- The Government aims to further extend the vaccine programme in November and December to include the 50-64 year old age group subject to vaccine supply. **This extension is being phased to allow you to prioritise those in at risk groups first.** Providers will be given notice in order to have services in place for any additional cohorts later in the season.

VACCINE SUPPLY

- As usual, providers will have ordered flu vaccine directly from manufacturers. This season, we are expecting increased demand for flu vaccine across all cohorts and we are also expanding the flu programme. **To support this, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has procured additional national supply of the adult vaccine and will issue guidance in September on how and when this can be accessed.**
- Two of the vaccines for use in the children's programme have been procured by Public Health England (PHE) and PHE has procured additional stock for this season. These are the live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) administered as a nasal spray and suitable for use in children aged 2 to less than 18 years except where contraindicated, and the injectable egg-grown Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIVe) for children in clinical risk groups for whom LAIV is unsuitable due to contraindication or age. These vaccines can be accessed through Immform at <https://portal.immform.phe.gov.uk>
- For eligible children from 9 years of age unable to receive LAIV, locally procured QIVc and QIVe are alternatively able to be given. For further information see Appendix E and www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/NHS-England-JCVI-advce-and-NHS-reimbursement-flu-vaccine-2020-21.pdf
- Fluenz® Tetra will be made available to order to all NHS providers of the 2020/21 children's flu programme on Friday 28 August. First deliveries will be made on your normal scheduled delivery day, beginning on Wednesday 2 September.
- The inactivated vaccine (QIVe) for children in clinical risk groups for whom LAIV is unsuitable, will be available to order from ImmForm by early September.

Infection Prevention and Control when administering vaccines

- Individuals should attend for vaccination at premises that are following the recommended infection prevention and control (IPC) guidance. www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/primary-care/infection-control
- Those displaying symptoms of COVID-19, or who are self-isolating because they are confirmed COVID-19 cases or are contacts of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases, should not attend until they have recovered and completed the required isolation period.
- healthcare professionals administering the vaccine may need to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in keeping with **current advice at the time**. Link to the new IPC guidance for remobilisation of services is now published

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/910885/COVID19_infection_prevention_and_control_guidance_FINAL_PDF_20082020.pdf

FURTHER GUIDANCE AVAILABLE TO HELP OUR PRIMARY CARE WORKFORCE

- **RCGP Mass Vaccination Guidance**

Delivering Mass Vaccinations During COVID-19 - A Logistical Guide for General Practice

https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/pluginfile.php/149506/mod_page/content/75/Mass%20Vaccination%20at%20a%20time%20of%20COVID%20V2.0.pdf

- **Guidance from the CQC on registration for flu vaccination delivery arrangements** (<https://www.cqc.org.uk/guidance-providers/registration/registration-flu-vaccination-arrangements>)

- **Seasonal Flu Planning Guide provided by LMC**

This guide has been produced to assist practices when planning the operational aspects of their FLU delivery programme 2020/21. Your Practice would have received the latest version of this document following the recent update on the flu programme extension in the 2nd flu letter.

Data Collections for 2020/21

- As in previous years, flu vaccine uptake data collections will be managed using the ImmForm website (www.immform.dh.gov.uk)
- Considerable efforts have been made to reduce the burden of data collections on GP practices by increasing the number of automated returns that are extracted directly from general practice system suppliers. GP practices that are not able to submit automated returns should discuss their arrangements with their general practice system supplier. If automated returns fail for the monthly data collection GP practices will be required to submit the mandatory data manually on to ImmForm to meet contractual obligations. Please contact your local SIT for support with the manual upload.
- Monthly data collections will take place over five months during the 2020/21 flu immunisation programme

Local Strategies to improve flu uptake rates for patients under 65 in a Clinical Risk Group and 2 & 3 year olds

- Our team would like to share with you some tailored flu invite letter templates that you may wish to use to invite patients in a specific clinical risk group as part of your practice's offer process (**letters attached in email**)
- The first 4 attached letters are aimed at patients with neurological disease, liver disease, immunosuppressed and pregnant women respectively

Patients group	At-risk condition	Letter template
Patients aged 6 months to 64 years of age with an at-risk condition for flu	Neurological disease	Letter 1
	Liver disease	Letter 2
	Immunosuppressed	Letter 3
	Pregnant women	Letter 4

- Template letter 5 is a generic flu invite letter template for practices to use for patients not in the 4 cohorts but who have another at-risk condition
- Invite letters should preferably be sent as early as possible in the flu season to ensure that patients receive their flu vaccination at the optimal time before flu starts circulating

2 and 3 year olds

- Child Health will also be sending a reminder letter to all 2 and 3 year olds parents to request that they make an appointment with their GP practice if their child has not yet received their flu vaccine. This is a reminder letter and practices are expected to continue with their call and recall process for this age group.

Improving uptake for flu vaccination in primary care - Some tips from our local practices

WHOLE TEAM APPROACH FOR FLU VACCINATION OFFER

- All immunisers set-up to offer opportunistic flu vaccination to patients during other appointments
- Reception team to offer appointment for flu vaccination on check-in or via telephone if booking an appointment
- Practice team to telephone eligible patients who have not booked an appointment for flu vaccination
- Prompts to be included in patient notes so GPs/nurses can offer vaccination immediately
- Flu vaccination to be offered when patients order repeat medications
- Staff to liaise with midwife to offer flu vaccination to pregnant women opportunistically after midwife appointments
- Named clinical and administrator leads for flu ensured leadership at practice level

Improving uptake for flu vaccination in primary care - Some tips from our local practices

INVITATION / REMINDERS

- Send text messages/letters or telephone call reminding patients to book an appointment for a flu vaccination.
- Repeat the process for patients who have not attended or booked an appointment on a regular basis throughout the season
- Affix label to prescription collections reminding patients to book for flu vaccination

DAILY TASKS

- Administrator to do a daily review of patients booked for other appointments and flag any eligible patient to be offered their flu vaccination.

VACCINE ORDERING

- Practice to ensure vaccine orders are in place for all eligible cohorts
- Complete weekly vaccine stock checks

NHSE Approved Flu PGDs for 2020/21 & Guidance for practices vaccinating their own staff

Link to NHSE Approved Flu PGDs:

- All PGDs for the routine childhood and adult immunisation will be available on our NHSE South East webpage: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/south-east/our-work/info-professionals/pgd/kss/downloads/>
- The flu PGDs will also be distributed to all our GP practices (Practice Managers and Clinical Imms Leads)
- HCWs flu and practices can vaccinate their own staff via a written instruction – please see relevant guidance in the link below: <https://www.sps.nhs.uk/articles/written-instruction-for-the-administration-of-seasonal-flu-vaccination/>

Contact Details

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