



West Midlands Flu Immunisation 2020/21 Newsletter Issue 17 Sept 2020

To:

GP Practices (Practice Managers), School Age Immunisation Services (SAIS), CCG/LA/HV/Midwifery Immunisation Leads, CHIS Hub Managers, PHE HPUs, West Midland Screening and Immunisation Partnership group members.

In:

Birmingham, Coventry, Dudley, Herefordshire, Sandwell, Solihull, Walsall, Warwickshire, Wolverhampton and Worcestershire

This flu immunisation newsletter produced by the West Midlands Screening & Immunisation Team. The newsletter contains important updates for those involved in delivering flu immunisation services. It is primarily aimed at immunisation providers (GP Practices, School Age Immunisation Services) but should also be of interest to wider stakeholders. This does not replace other communications sent out by NHS England or national publications such as Vaccine Update¹ or updates to The Green Book². In this issue

- Annual flu programme
- Children's flu programme
- School Aged Immunisation flu programme
- Maternal immunisation flu programme
- Leaflets posters flu programme
- Data ImmForm
- West Mids immunisation advice service contact details
- PPE guidance

Any comments and suggestions for future topics should be emailed to england.wmid-imms@nhs.net

Kind regards,

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¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book>

Annual flu programme 2020/21

Annual flu letters

1st annual flu letter

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

2nd annual flu letter

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

Influenza vaccine oval albumin content 2020/21 flu season

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/891140/Oval_albumin_table_2020_to_2021.pdf

Enhanced GP flu service 2020/21

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/directed-enhanced-service-specification-seasonal-influenza-and-pneumococcal-polysaccharide-vaccination-programme-2020-21/>

Please note new information regarding patient invitations.

Practices must include within at least one written communication (including letters and SMS text messages) offering vaccination to eligible patients, a request that the patient advises the practice of their ethnicity status if they have not previously provided this information to the practice and where provided by the patient or their carer, the practice must record the ethnicity information in the patient record. (page 15)

Community pharmacy seasonal influenza vaccination advanced service 2020/21

https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/08/20-21_Service_specification_for_seasonal_flu_FINAL.pdf

Summary of key changes for 2020/21 page 4

Need to obtain written consent removed. Contractors must record verbal consent obtained

Patient cohorts updated to reflect the content of the 2020/21 Annual Flu Letter

Need to notify regional teams prior to undertaking vaccinations off-site is removed

Need to notify patient's GP in advance of vaccinating a patient in their home / care home is removed

Restrictions on off-site vaccination (only in patient's home and care homes)

removed and contractors are now able to vaccinate off-site within professional standards (this includes being able to vaccinate care home staff within the care home)

Contractors able to vaccinate patients in any appropriate space within the pharmacy (although the requirement to have a consultation room remains, and the patient must still be able to have their vaccination in the consultation room if they request it)

Flu frequently asked questions – these are being produced nationally and will be available shortly. We are also expecting to receive details on the process required regarding accessing the national flu vaccine stockpile

Children's flu programme

Vaccine supply

Availability of vaccines for the 2020/21 children's flu programme supplied by PHE

Vaccine	Manufacturer	Anticipated order opening for all providers
Fluenz® Tetra (LAIV)	AstraZeneca	Friday 28 August
Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (split virion, inactivated) (QIVe)	Sanofi Pasteur	By early September

Further to the previous update on 16 July, PHE can now confirm that we plan to open ordering for Fluenz® Tetra (LAIV) to all NHS providers of the 2020/21 children's flu programme on Friday 28 August, with first deliveries made from 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.

As always, these timings remain subject to change, and plans for vaccination sessions in both schools and general practices should be made with this in mind. Should there be any changes to this schedule, these will be communicated by PHE via the NIN, on the ImmForm website and through Vaccine Update.

Please find below some additional vaccine ordering information for general practice and school-age immunisation providers.

LAIV ordering information for General Practice

Ordering controls will be in place for Fluenz® Tetra to enable PHE to balance supply with demand. As in previous years ordering controls for general practices are tailored to each practice and work by allocating an amount of vaccine based on the number of registered eligible patients. Increases to the allocations will be applied as soon a sufficient stock becomes available to do so. Exact timings have not been defined at this time; however, we expect to be able to facilitate the following:

- Each GP practice will **initially** be allocated sufficient vaccine to vaccinate at least 50% of their eligible children (all 2- and 3-year olds, plus children in clinical risk groups from age 4 to <18 years) when ordering commences.
- Subsequently, each GP practice will be allocated sufficient vaccine to vaccinate at least 70% of their eligible cohort (as above) by early October.
- Further amendments to these allocations will be made in response to demand and vaccine availability.
- Requests for extra vaccine will be considered on a case by case basis throughout.

To support the GP flu programme Birmingham Community Healthcare NHS Trust (BCHC) Child Health information Service (CHIS) have been commissioned to provide health promotion letters to the parents of all those aged two and three on **31 August 2019 (date of birth on or after 1 September 2015 and on or before 31 August 2017)**, inviting parents to contact their GP to arrange an appointment. GP Practices **should continue to invite eligible children** for their flu vaccine.

It is important to advise parents of all children aged 2 and 3 years who are covered by the universal vaccination programme¹, and children aged 6 months and over who are in a clinical risk group, about the benefits of flu vaccination. Do this whenever the opportunity arises, for example when they attend routine appointments or for other vaccination programmes.

Alternative flu vaccine for children

This season there is a limited supply of the alternative vaccine, for children whose parents would prefer them not to have the nasal spray. The IM vaccine is less effective than the nasal spray for healthy children, so children at risk must be prioritised for this vaccine.

- School age children
 - School age children who are not at risk, but whose parents would prefer that they did not have the nasal spray, can request the alternative vaccine, but it would not be available until November and only then if there was sufficient stock.
- Two to three-year olds
 - Two to three-year olds who are not at risk, but whose parents would prefer that they did not have the nasal spray, can also request the alternative vaccine from their GP. Again, this would mean waiting until November and would depend upon there being sufficient stock of the alternative vaccine. GPs will not provide the alternative vaccine before November, because children at risk must be prioritised.

PPE guidance changes for vaccination

The national guidance on infection prevention and control for COVID-19 were recently updated; this includes further changes to the recommendations on use of personal protective equipment (PPE)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-infection-prevention-and-control#history>

The guidance states that in some clinical 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. Staff administering vaccinations/injections must apply hand hygiene between patients and wear a sessional Type IIR mask.

Flu immunisation training recommendation

Immunisation training recommendations:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-training-recommendations/flu-immunisation-training-recommendations-for-2020-to-2021>

Flu training slides for 2020/21 are available on Gov.uk:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme>

LAIV/IM Flu PGDs are available on: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/midlands/information-for-professionals/information-for-professionals-west-midlands-screening-and-immunisation-team-sit/patient-group-directions-pgds/>

School Aged flu Immunisation programme

Cohorts offered flu vaccines in schools

School aged immunisation providers will offer flu vaccines to pupils in primary schools' reception to school year 6 and in senior schools to pupils in year 7

School aged immunisation providers

Provider	Area covered
Birmingham Community Healthcare Trust (BCHC)	Birmingham and Solihull
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership Trust (CWPT)	Coventry and Warwickshire

Vaccine supply

LAIV ordering information for school-age providers

A default ordering cap of 300 packs (3000 doses) per week, per ImmForm account will be in place for school providers. Where this cap is insufficient and a provider needs a larger weekly volume of vaccine to deliver the programme (for example where a provider covers a large area using a single account), a higher weekly cap should be requested via the PHE Vaccine Operations team.

For one-off larger orders during the ordering period, requests should be made via helpdesk@immform.org.uk in good time before the order cut-off.

Inactivated flu vaccine ordering

PHE also supplies an egg based Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (split virion, inactivated) which is suitable for all children from six months to less than 18 years old.

This vaccine will have an initial order cap of 20 doses per week.

This vaccine should be ordered for all eligible children aged less than 9 years who are contraindicated for, or too young to receive Fluenz® Tetra **AND** are in a clinical risk group.

Maternal flu immunisation programme

All pregnant women should be offered the flu vaccine to protect themselves and their babies for every pregnancy. The flu vaccine can be given safely at any stage of pregnancy.

GP practices should ensure all pregnant women are offered a flu vaccine and document outcome of offer. If they are eligible for a Pertussis vaccine that can be offered and administered at same time.

If flu vaccine is administered elsewhere e.g. pharmacy/maternity unit on receipt of notification patients' records should be updated as soon as possible.

Leaflets, posters flu immunisation programme

Many of the leaflets below are available in other languages

Flu vaccination for children: leaflets and posters

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-leaflets-and-posters>

Flu vaccination: easy read flu resources

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

The flu vaccination winter 2020/21 who should have it and why

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

Flu uptake data, ImmForm

Automatic extraction of flu vaccines administered: if your practice uses one of the GP Clinical Systems **EMIS Health, INPS (Vision), Microtest, TPP (SystemOne)** and has activated automatic uploads on the GP Clinical System flu vaccine uptake will be automatically uploaded on to Immform. If you are unsure if the automatic upload has been activated, please contact your GP Clinical System Supplier.

Please check Immform to ensure that the flu vaccine submission has been automatically uploaded for adults and children and is shown on Immform after a given "GP System Supplier Submit End Date" also check the flu vaccine uptake is correct for your practice.

If you find that your flu vaccine uptake is not shown, or the uptake data is incorrect please contact your Clinical System Provider.

Contact us

Immunisation queries

We encourage you to use the West Midlands Immunisation Clinical Advice Service (WM ICAS) for immunisation queries. Contact us via: england.wmid-imms@nhs.net

We ask that providers contact the service for immunisation advice and do not refer members of the public to this service.

Contracting queries

GP Contracting can be contacted via england.gp-contracting@nhs.net

Please inform the GP Contracting Team of any practice changes, such as mergers, closures of practices and changes with Practice Manager, contact details or email address.

Providing a generic practice email address to the GP Contracting Team will help to ensure practices receive communications in a timely manner.