



To: **Muslim community leader / XXX**

**XXX Mosque / Community Centre**



[www.nhs.uk/booster](http://www.nhs.uk/booster)

**xx xxxx 2022**

Dear **Muslim community leader XXX**

As-salamu alaikum wa rahmatullahi wa barakatuh

## **Winter vaccination – thank you for your continued support**

Thank you for everything you have done, and still are doing, to help keep our communities safe during the COVID-19 pandemic. As community leaders, your work to raise awareness, shared accurate information from trusted sources, and support vaccination clinics has saved lives and helped to bring families and communities back together.

With COVID-19 and flu viruses in full circulation, this winter could be the first time we see the effects of a so-called ‘twindemic’, putting more people at risk of serious illness.

To help boost the immunity of our community, we ask you to please continue to encourage those who need one to get their Autumn/winter COVID-19 and flu vaccines. It is important people come forward for both jabs even if they have been vaccinated before as COVID immunity wanes, and the flu virus changes, over time.

Those who can get both vaccines include everyone aged 50 and over, pregnant women, care home residents, unpaid carers, people with certain health conditions (many are shown at [www.england.nhs.uk/covid-increased-risk](http://www.england.nhs.uk/covid-increased-risk)) and frontline health and care staff.

Additional groups at risk of getting seriously ill from flu or of passing it on to others, such as young children, primary school aged and some secondary school aged children are also being offered flu vaccines.

All NHS vaccines have been authorised by the Medicines and Healthcare Regulatory Agency (MHRA). They are safe and effective and there has been extensive testing on thousands of people, including those from our own communities.

All COVID-19 vaccines currently offered by the NHS, including the next-generation bivalent vaccine that targets original and newer variants of the virus, are free from gelatine, eggs and all other animal products. Muslim jurists have said these are permissible and suitable for a halal diet.

Although some flu vaccines contain egg, there are also low-egg and egg-free vaccines available. Children over the age of 2 may be offered a nasal spray flu vaccine which contains small traces of porcine gelatine. As many families and Muslim jurists find this unsuitable, they can speak to their GP practice about the injectable vaccine that does not contain gelatine.

Please remind your community it is not too late protect themselves and others by having their first, second or booster doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Bookings can be made online at [www.nhs.uk/get-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/get-vaccination) or by scanning the QR code above, by calling 119 for free, or at a [local vaccination walk-in centre](#).

Flu vaccines can be booked at GP practices or [community pharmacies](#) and some people will be invited to book online through the flu national booking system. Children aged 2-3 and those in at risk groups can get their vaccine through their GP practice and school aged children will be offered the flu vaccine through schools or community clinics. To find out more about the flu vaccine and who is eligible, visit [www.nhs.uk/flujab](http://www.nhs.uk/flujab).

Information leaflets are available for you to share in English, as translated versions (including Urdu, Bengali and Pashto) or in other formats (including braille and audio versions) from gov.uk: [COVID-19 vaccination: autumn booster resources - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-autumn-booster-resources) ([www.gov.uk](http://www.gov.uk))

We can continue to help people to protect themselves and each other by working together. **Please get in touch with us if you have ideas to increase awareness of vaccination and to engage members of our community further.**

Kind regards,

Wa alaykumus salam wa rahmatullah



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