**September 2025**

**EAST MIDLANDS VACCINATION TEAM BULLETIN**

**PLEASE CASCADE TO ALL relevant STAFF, INCLUDING GPS, PRACTICE NURSES, ADMIN AND RECEPTION STAFF**

## **tHE ANNUAL FLU PROGRAMME AND RESOURCES FOR 2025/26**

The seasonal influenza vaccination programme was described in the National flu immunisation programme plan for 2025/26: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan-2025-to-2026>

**The childhood flu programme and the flu programme for pregnant women commences 1st September 2025. The adult programme will start from 1st October 2025.**

**Full information about this season’s programme is available for healthcare practitioners at:** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-programme-information-for-healthcare-practitioners**](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-programme-information-for-healthcare-practitioners)

The national flu vaccination programme 2025/26 slide set for healthcare practitioners, produced by UKHSA is now available for download, the slides can be accessed **at the top of the 2025 to 2026 flu season section.** [Annual flu programme - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme#2025-to-2026-flu-season). Other flu resources are also available at this link.

The slide set is designed to update health care practitioners involved in delivering the national flu immunisation programme for the 2025 to 2026 flu season and includes information about both the inactivated vaccines and the live attenuated influenza vaccine used for the childhood flu programme. This resource is designed to be used by anyone involved in the flu programme. Not all slides will be required for training – trainers should select slides depending on audience background, role in the programme and length of training session.

Also please see the updated interactive [e-learning](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.e-lfh.org.uk%2Fprogrammes%2Fflu-immunisation%2F&data=05%7C02%7Cengland.imms%40nhs.net%7C442f098877174bb8ee2108dddc0b1760%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638908662364876676%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=2qTPKwcb%2FRvfHDxMJScZYXz0Goyr9BQp7Vu1UFe2%2FCY%3D&reserved=0) package to support the training of all healthcare professionals involved in delivering or advising on flu immunisation.

**quality criteria for an effective immunisation programme**

The UKHSA have published a document which defines the key elements for the implementation and delivery of a safe, equitable, high quality, effective and efficient immunisation service which is responsive to the needs of vaccine recipients and their parents or carers. It is intended for all those involved in the immunisation programme pathway, please access via this link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quality-criteria-for-an-effective-immunisation-programme>

**RSV VACCINATION PROGRAMME UPDATE – OLDER ADULTS**

All adults who turned (or will turn) 80 years old from 1 September 2024 should remain eligible for the RSV vaccine until 31 August 2026.

Authorisation of these vaccinations via the RSV Patient Group Direction (PGD) will lapse on 31 August 2025, so after that date practices should use a Patient Specific Direction (PSD).

**The RSV vaccination offer for older adults aged 75 – 79 years old and pregnant women are unaffected by these changes.**

For older adults, the JCVI has now advised that RSV and COVID-19 vaccinations can be given at the same appointment (while maintaining a preference for giving RSV and flu vaccines separately based on immune response data).

## **Vaccine update – GOV.UK**

The August flu special edition of Vaccine update is now available.

[Vaccine update: issue 362, August 2025](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinks-1.govdelivery.com%2FCL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Fwww.gov.uk%252Fgovernment%252Fpublications%252Fvaccine-update-issue-362-august-2025-flu-special%2F1%2F01000199063aca10-5e643fa8-74bc-408a-9d18-f2e5b1a50610-000000%2FWkQ4unOssg7N1vpLyy8CNGKEAtuKuGiT78smhR886hI%3D420&data=05%7C02%7Calison.campbell%40nhs.net%7C3a07796347624f827cca08dde9795093%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638923429438781888%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=NKTyl5oN7GLAm7qfBrq8B5WcfnbVsoSlJXzLugieFlE%3D&reserved=0)

This month's important issue includes:

* details of the 2025 to 2026 flu programme
* timings of the vaccination
* information pharmacy vaccination for 2- to 3-year-olds
* vaccines and supply
* publications and promotional material

You can download the pdf version on the new [Find public health resources website here](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Flinks-1.govdelivery.com%2FCL0%2Fhttps%3A%252F%252Ffind-public-health-resources.service.gov.uk%252FVaccine%252520update%252520issue%252520362%25252C%252520August%2525202025%25253A%252520flu%252520special%252F1265468HEN001%2F1%2F01000199063aca10-5e643fa8-74bc-408a-9d18-f2e5b1a50610-000000%2FCwCPHn3nmtnHrXkTw2tHf63ioq7usw_PT5skGMbQIn8%3D420&data=05%7C02%7Calison.campbell%40nhs.net%7C3a07796347624f827cca08dde9795093%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638923429438814003%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=21o3OJV2xEqTxBUnROdOSBtN8OozpULtVDAxdEP4liw%3D&reserved=0)

**All “Vaccine Updates” are available here -** [**https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update**](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-issue-344-november-2023-pregnancy-special/vaccine-update-issue-344-november-2023-pregnancy-special>**It is recommended that all health care professionals involved in vaccination subscribe to the vaccine update. Please access this link to activate a subscription:** [**https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHPA/subscribers/new?preferences=true**](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKHPA/subscribers/new?preferences=true)

# **Patient Group Directions**

The Screening and Immunisation Team are responsible for issuing all up to date PGDs in relation to the routine immunisation programmes. **PGDs should not be accessed directly from the UKHSA website, as these have not had regional authorisation. Please note the SIT will issue PGDs to providers, well in advance of expiry dates.** Patient group directions are also available on our website at: [NHS England — Midlands » East Midlands Screening and Immunisation Team (SIT)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/midlands/information-for-professionals/leicestershire-lincolnshire-northamptonshire-screening-and-immunisation-team-sit/). Please ensure you are always using the most up to date version of any PGD.

**For any queries regarding PGDs please contact our EMICAS inbox.**

# **COLD CHAIN MANAGEMENT**

As part of NHS England – East Midlands, the Screening and Immunisation Team (SIT) are responsible for commissioning and performance managing all the routine immunisation programmes. This includes ensuring safe and effective delivery of these programmes. Because of this any cold chain and vaccine incidents should be reported directly to SIT.

Please see below for the correct process for cold chain incident reporting in our area:

* On identifying a potential incident, the Screening, and Immunisation Team (SIT) should be contacted via the EMICAS inbox as soon as is practicably possible on the same day that the incident is discovered, to discuss next steps.
* The reporting email should contain full details about the incident and evidence of temperature breach/timeframe where possible.
* If categorised as a cold chain incident by the SIT the next steps will be outlined in the email response from the SIT, and you will be given a reference number. If full details have been provided **completion of an incident form will be required only if patients have been vaccinated with affected stock.**
* Depending on the severity of the cold chain incident you may be advised to contact the vaccine manufacturers for information about vaccine stability and further use.
* The SIT will keep a record of the incident, actions and outcome for audit and monitoring purposes.
* Depending on the severity of the cold chain incident, vaccine manufacturers may advise that vaccines have maintained stability and are still safe to use “off label”, this means that the vaccines are still within their licence.
* **Do not discard any vaccines prior to discussing with the SIT.**  Ifany vaccines need to be destroyed because of the incident then this wastage should be reported on to ImmForm, as a stock incident, which will then generate a cost invoice to the SIT. **Please note** - **If no vaccines are wasted, then there is no requirement to report on ImmForm.**

**The use of “off label” vaccines**

* Not all cold chain interruptions will result in the need for vaccines to be destroyed. When storage temperatures have varied a little for a short period of time, some vaccines can tolerate this fluctuation and the safety of the vaccine and way in which it works may not be affected.
* In this instance the vaccines can still be used “off label” this means that the vaccine is still licensed but it is being used in a different way to that stated within the licence (i.e. out of recommended temperature ranges (+2 ° to +8 ° C) The “off label” use of vaccines is determined by what is known about the vaccine from information provided by the manufacturer, the World Health Organisation and from special stability studies. NHS England, UKHSA, and the vaccine manufacturer will advise on whether the vaccine can still be used.
* Using vaccines “off label” is not a way of saving money, it is a waste of public money to throw away expensive vaccines unnecessarily, also to have to delay vaccination could put a patient at risk of a serious infection.

**The decision to allow “off label” use will only be taken if the vaccine is still considered to be safe and effective. It is recognised that the ultimate decision in each practice to use vaccines “off label” rests with the lead clinician, however the Screening and Immunisation Team fully endorse this practice.**

**For further information please go to:** [Off-label vaccines: an introductory guide for healthcare professionals - text version - GOV.UK](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.uk%2Fgovernment%2Fpublications%2Foff-label-vaccine-leaflets%2Foff-label-vaccines-an-introductory-guide-for-healthcare-professionals-text-version&data=05%7C02%7Calison.campbell%40nhs.net%7C50e76efb352549631f0c08ddea39ae0a%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638924255659843581%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJFbXB0eU1hcGkiOnRydWUsIlYiOiIwLjAuMDAwMCIsIlAiOiJXaW4zMiIsIkFOIjoiTWFpbCIsIldUIjoyfQ%3D%3D%7C0%7C%7C%7C&sdata=KKhxLGVWHTDQmHqjvY01nsjb2mldU3gR%2BsRoUpTNX%2FY%3D&reserved=0)

# **Useful Documents**

* A poster for display in clinical areas promoting our immunisation clinical advice service:



* **UPDATED July 2025:** The Routine Childhood Immunisation Schedule:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/683e27b31b807cfa6995e094/UKHSA_13284_Complete_Immunisation_schedule_01_July_2025_WEB.pdf>

* **UPDATED July 2025:** Incomplete or uncertain immunisation schedule:

<https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/683d9e6e8e9bdf1409b90b68/UKHSA_13259_Algorithm_immunisation_status_20250503.pdf>

* **UPDATED September 2025:** Immunisation cohorts and providers for 2025/26



* The Green Book – Immunisation Against Disease -  [Immunisation against infectious disease - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation-against-infectious-disease-the-green-book)

# **THE immunisation team**

The East Midlands Immunisation Team cover all counties in the East Midlands region.

**Contact details for immunisation queries:**

* Any routine immunisation (Section 7A) enquiries or incidents (including cold chain & vaccine incidents) should be sent to the East Midlands Immunisation Clinical Advice Service (EMICAS) generic inbox [england.imms@nhs.net](mailto:england.imms@nhs.net)

**Please include your practice ODS code in the email title, when contacting EMICAS, for us to appropriately record and audit queries and incidents**. **Failure to do so may result in a delay in answering your query.**

* All ImmForm queries should be emailed to: [Helpdesk@immform.org.uk](mailto:Helpdesk@immform.org.uk) or 0207 183 8580.
* All practice payment queries should be emailed to: GP Contracting EMids:

[nnicb-nn.eastmidlands-pcgp@nhs.net](mailto:nnicb-nn.eastmidlands-pcgp@nhs.net)

# **OTHER COntact Details**

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| --- | --- |
| **CHILD HEALTH INFORMATION SERVICES (CHIS)** | |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | [scwcsu.Lincs.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.Lincs.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| LEICESTERSHIRE | [scwcsu.LLRMovementsteam.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.LLRMovementsteam.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234  [scwcsu.LLRchildhealthrecords.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.LLRchildhealthrecords.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234  [scwcsu.LLRbirthsregistrationteam.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.LLRbirthsregistrationteam.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| NORTHAMPTONSHIRE | [scwcsu.northants.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.northants.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE | [scwcsu.derbyshire.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.derbyshire.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| NOTTS AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE | Nottingham City - [scwcsu.nottscity.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.nottscity.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234  Notts County and Bassetlaw - [scwcsu.nottscounty.chis@nhs.net](mailto:scwcsu.nottscounty.chis@nhs.net) Tel: 0300 561 0234 |
| **SCHOOL AGED IMMUNISATION SERVICE (SAIS)** | |
| LINCOLNSHIRE | [lhnt.sais@nhs.net](mailto:lhnt.sais@nhs.net) 01522 572950 |
| LEICESTERSHIRE | Leicestershire Partnership NHS Trust: 0300 3000 007 |
| NORTHAMPTONSHIRE | [Imms.nhft@nhs.net](mailto:Imms.nhft@nhs.net)  0800 170 7055 (option 5) |
| DERBY AND DERBYSHIRE | [immunisations.derbyshire@intrahealth.co.uk](mailto:immunisations.derbyshire@intrahealth.co.uk) Tel: 03333583397 Option 5 |
| NOTTS AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE | [immunisations.nottinghamshire@intrahealth.co.uk](mailto:immunisations.nottinghamshire@intrahealth.co.uk) Tel: 03333583397 Option 4 |