

Flu Vaccination Eligibility: Key Messages for Reception Staff

Please could the following messages be shared with all staff (in a team meeting if possible) to ensure that the correct information is available to and being shared by all.

Health and Social Care Workers and Carers

Following reports that care home staff, carers and other individuals involved in health and social care work have been turned away from GP practices when requesting a flu vaccination, we would like to reiterate some key messages.

Immunisation should be provided to healthcare and social care workers in direct contact with patients/clients to protect them and to reduce the transmission of flu within health and social care premises, to contribute to the protection of individuals who may have a suboptimal response to their own immunisations, and to avoid disruption to services that provide their care.

- Vaccinations should be available through **their registered general practice** or community pharmacist.

Health and social care staff

There are three groups:

- 1) All 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 flu.
- 2) All health and care staff employed by voluntary managed hospice providers, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to flu.
- 3) 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.

All these three groups are eligible for a flu vaccine which can be delivered **through their registered GP** or community pharmacy. **Please ensure that social care workers are coded correctly when vaccinated.**

Please note: either a badge, a payslip or a letter from an employer is sufficient as ID. There is no expectation that an individual should bring all three.

Carers

Anyone who is in receipt of a carers allowance, a part time carer or the main carer of an older or disabled person, or a young carer, is also eligible for a flu vaccine from their registered GP. For example, an adult patient who cares for and regularly comes into contact with an elderly relative or neighbour, or a young carer looking after a disabled or vulnerable sibling or parent. If the carer falls ill the welfare of the person/s they

look after may be at risk. It is important carers are protected, so they can continue to give care to those they support and stay healthy throughout flu season.

The flu letter also states that the **health care professional should also apply clinical judgement to evaluate the risk of flu. If a patient is presenting as a carer or health care worker and they are looking after vulnerable / at risk people, they should be offered a flu vaccine** and payment can be claimed for this.

Shielded Patients and Their Household Contacts

We want to keep those who are most vulnerable to COVID-19 well this winter and we do not want them to catch flu. To reduce the chance of a person who has an underlying health condition catching flu from members of their household, we will be offering them the flu vaccine. If a patient lives with or cares for someone who is on the NHS Shielded Patient List for COVID-19 or an immunocompromised individual, or if they expect to share accommodation with them on most days over the winter, making close contact unavoidable, **they should be given a free flu vaccine. This can be offered by their registered GP practice.**

By having the vaccination, household contacts of the shielded can reduce their chances of getting flu and spreading it to the person they live with who is more vulnerable.

50 – 64 Year Olds

Whilst we've received information that all 50 to 64-year olds may be eligible for a flu vaccination as part of plans to protect more people against seasonal flu, these vaccinations will be subject to confirmation **later in the year**. This allows GP's and community pharmacists to focus on those who are in an at-risk group, such as pregnant women and people with long term health conditions. They will be given priority and offered the vaccine first. Patients aged 50-64 and not in one of the at-risk categories will be made aware in **November** if they will be able to attend for vaccination.

School Aged Children

If school aged children miss a vaccination in school due to absence, these children will be vaccinated later at a 'catch-up session'. Parents of children will be contacted with details of the catch-up clinic they should attend. Full details of the School Immunisation Pathways were detailed in the factsheets provided in last week's PH Bulletin, dated 2/10/20. However, should a parent contact a surgery requesting a vaccination, please signpost them to the relevant provider. Please find contact details for providers and each area covered below.

Exception - At-risk Children

At risk children can receive their vaccination at school or with their registered GP practice. If a child misses their school clinic, it may be advisable to offer them a vaccination at the surgery, especially if the catch-up clinic is not imminent.

Region	Provider	Address	Contact number	Contact email / website
Bristol, North Somerset &	Sirona Care and Health CIC	Kingswood Locality Hub, Alma Road,	01454 863 764	Email: sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net

South Gloucestershire				Website: https://www.sirona-cic.org.uk/nhsservices/services/school-age-flu-vaccination/
		Kingswood BS15 4DA 3 Station Road, Pill, BS20 0BA	01275 373 104	
Bath & North East Somerset, Swindon & Wiltshire	Virgin Care Ltd	Wiltshire Children's Community Services, 1st Floor Technology House, Unit 10 High Post Business Park, SP4 6AT	0300 247 0082	Email: Vcl.immunisations@nhs.net Website: https://wiltshirechildrenservices.co.uk/immunisation-service/
Cornwall	Kernow Health CIC	1st Floor Cudmore House Oak Lane Truro TR1 3LP	01872 221105	Email: kernowhealth.schoolimmunisations@nhs.net Website: https://www.kernowhealthcic.org.uk/primary-care-services/school-immunisations/
Devon	Virgin Care Ltd – Devon	Immunisation Team, Agricultural House, Pynes Hill, Rydon Lane, Exeter EX2 5ST	0300 247 0082	Email: Vcl.immunisations@nhs.net Website: https://wiltshirechildrenservices.co.uk/immunisation-service/
Dorset	Dorset HealthCare University NHS Foundation Trust	Acorn Building St Leonards Hospital Ringwood Road St Leonards BH24 2DW	01425 891162	Email: dhc.immsenquiries@nhs.net Website: https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/schoolageimms
Gloucestershire	Gloucestershire Health and Care NHS Foundation Trust	Edward Jenner Court, 1010 Gloucester Business Park, Pioneer Avenue, Brockworth, Gloucester GL3 4AW	0300 421 8140	Email: GHC.Immunisation@ghc.nhs.uk Website: https://www.ghc.nhs.uk/our-teams-and-services/immunisation/
Somerset	School Aged Immunisation Nursing Team (Somerset NHS Foundation Trust)	Mallard Court, Express Park, Bristol Road, Bridgewater, TA6 4RN	0300 323 0032	Email: somersetsaint@somersetft.nhs.uk Website: https://www.somersetft.nhs.uk/saints-school-age-immunisation-team/

Summary

Who should be given a flu vaccination at a GP surgery routinely if requested:

- Carers – young or adult
- Health and social care workers
- Residential Care home staff
- Household contacts of those in the NHS shielded list and immunocompromised individuals
- At risk school aged children
- All 2 and 3 year olds
- Any individuals in at-risk groups
- Over 65s

Who should be referred elsewhere:

- 50 to 64 year olds
- School aged children who are eligible for a nasal vaccination and who have missed their school's vaccination clinic.