

Reimbursable vaccines and eligible cohorts for the 2022/23 NHS Seasonal Influenza (flu) Vaccination Programme – Revised 2022

21 July 2022, Version 1.1

This guidance is intended to give providers and stakeholders of the seasonal flu vaccination programme information on the recommended vaccines and eligible cohorts for the 2022/23 seasonal flu vaccination programme. This updated version includes the additional cohorts announced on 15th July 2022.

The 2020/21 and 2021/22 flu vaccination seasons have been the most ambitious yet, as we sought to offer protection to as many eligible people as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic. This involved increased uptake ambitions for pre-existing cohorts, as well as extension of the vaccination offer to additional cohorts at pace. We would like to extend a huge thank you to all those involved for your hard work during very challenging times which led to some of the best flu vaccine uptake rates ever achieved. This has been achieved alongside the major success of the roll-out of national COVID-19 vaccination to which many of you have contributed.

Seasonal flu vaccination remains an important public health intervention and a key priority for 2022/23 to reduce morbidity, mortality and hospitalisation associated with flu at a time when the NHS and social care will be managing winter pressures, potentially including further outbreaks of COVID-19.

Eligibility

Eligible cohorts for flu vaccination are based on the [advice](#) of the JCVI and Department of Health and Social Care. Those eligible for NHS flu vaccine in 2022/23 are:

Initially

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the [influenza chapter](#) in 'Immunisation against infectious disease' (the 'Green Book')

- all children aged 2 to 10 (but not 11 years or older) on 31 August 2022¹ (i.e. up to school Year 6)
- pregnant women
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals

Additionally

- 50 to 64 year olds not in clinical risk groups (including those who turn 50 by 31 March 2023)
- Secondary school-aged children focusing on years 7, 8 and 9 and any remaining vaccine will be offered to years 10 and 11, subject to vaccine availability.

DHSC has agreed this extension of the flu programme to include Year 7, 8 and 9 secondary school-aged children. School aged cohorts that will be eligible for vaccination are now all children in reception and school Years 1 – 6 with additional year groups 7, 8 and 9 added. The contractual requirement to offer 100% of eligible children a vaccination and vaccinate all consented children by 15 December 2022 will be reinstated.

DHSC has also agreed to an extension of the flu programme to those aged 50 to 64 years not in clinical risk groups. These groups will be eligible for vaccination from 15th October 2022, to ensure the clinical prioritisation of those most at risk from flu.

For general practice (GPs) and community pharmacy payment and reimbursement will be in line with the flu service specifications and within the announced authorised cohorts at the time of vaccination. The service specifications will be published shortly following negotiations.

Vaccination is recommended for frontline healthcare workers and social care workers. This should be provided by employers as part of the organisation's policy to prevent the transmission of infection. There are circumstances where frontline staff employed by specific social care providers² without access to employer led occupational health schemes can access the vaccine on the NHS.

The aim of the NHS flu vaccination programme for the 2022/23 season is to demonstrate a 100% offer and to achieve at least the uptake levels of 2021/22 for each cohort.

Vaccines reimbursed as part of the NHS Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2022/23

Contractual requirements for all commissioned NHS flu vaccination providers will state that to receive payment for flu vaccination and reimbursement of flu vaccine, providers will need to use the specific flu vaccines recommended in this NHSE guidance.

¹ Since 2013, flu vaccination has been offered to children to provide both individual protection to the children themselves and reduce transmission across all age groups to protect vulnerable members of the population.

² Registered residential care or nursing homes, registered domiciliary care providers, voluntary managed hospice providers, or direct Payment (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants.

The following JCVI-advised vaccines will be reimbursed for adults in the 2022/23 Programme.

Those aged 65 years and over	At-risk adults, including pregnant women, aged 18 to less than 65 years	50 to 64-year olds NOT in a clinical at risk group
<i>Reimbursed vaccines</i>		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • aQIV / QIVr • QIVc (only where aQIV or QIVr is not available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QIVc / QIVr • QIVe (only where QIVc or QIVr is not available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • QIVe • QIVc / QIVr (these should only be offered where it does not divert stock from clinical at-risk groups and those age 65 years and over)
<i>Rationale / further information</i>		
Those aged 65 years and over	At-risk adults, including pregnant women, aged 18 to less than 65 years	50 to 64-year olds NOT in a clinical at risk group
<p>There are three vaccines that JCVI advised are equally suitable for use in 2022/23.</p> <p>Adjuvanted quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (aQIV)*, High-dose quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (QIV-HD) and Quadrivalent Recombinant Influenza Vaccine (QIVr). JCVI considered the use of QIV-HD in those aged 65. However, QIV-HD is not currently available in the UK market.</p>	<p>Evidence from recent flu seasons indicate a clear additional benefit in the use of quadrivalent influenza vaccines in those less than 65 years of age in an at-risk group, compared with trivalent influenza vaccines. JCVI advises the use of Quadrivalent influenza cell-culture vaccine (QIVc) and Quadrivalent Recombinant Influenza Vaccine (QIVr).</p> <p>JCVI supports a preference for QIVc and QIVr over QIVe in these cohorts, however the QIVe can be considered.</p>	<p>JCVI advice is that the most vulnerable cohorts should be prioritised over the otherwise healthy 50-64 year olds and given the most effective vaccines available first, (QIVr or QIVc), while QIVe should be reserved for otherwise healthy 50-64 year olds.</p>

<p>The quadrivalent influenza cell-culture vaccine (QIVc) is considered an acceptable alternative and is suitable for use in this age group if aQIV, QIV-HD or QIVr are not available.</p>		
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* As in previous years, aQIV may be offered 'off-label' to those who become 65 years of age before 31 March 2023.

Flu vaccine ordering and planning

Due to manufacturing processes and commissioning arrangements, some vaccines may only be available in limited quantities. Therefore, it is recommended that orders are placed with more than one manufacturer to ensure providers receive sufficient stock.

Additional vaccine stock will be made available via usual procurement routes (there will be no vaccine stock centrally procured by the Department of Health and Social Care for the 2022/23 season) and, therefore, we strongly urge providers to order sufficient volumes of clinically appropriate vaccine to serve their eligible populations in order to provide coverage at least equal to and ideally exceeding 2021/22 uptake levels.

Summary table of manufacturers with vaccine stock still available to order for 50 to 64-year olds:

MANUFACTURER	VACCINE TYPE AVAILABLE	HOW TO PLACE AN ORDER
Sanofi	QiVr QiVe	<p><u>Customer services information</u> Email: GB-vaccinecustomerservices@sanofi.com Phone: 0800 854 430 (option 1) Customers are able to place vaccines orders with Sanofi through three routes:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Calling or emailing customer services 2. Discussing with their Vaccine Account Manager. Note this is dependant on customer type 3. Ordering online via our e-commerce platform Vaxishop www.vaxishop.co.uk

Seqirus	QiVc	<p><u>Seqirus Sales Team</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phone: 0345 0093804 • Email: flu.salesuk@seqirus.com • Online: www.flu360.co.uk <p>Please contact the Seqirus sales team on 0345 0093804 or email at flu.salesuk@seqirus.com, <u>alternatively online at www.flu360.co.uk</u>, to adjust orders.</p>
Viatrix	QiVe	<p><u>Customer Services Information</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Online: flu@viatrix.com • Phone: 08003587468

Adult flu vaccine manufacturers have advised that orders can be placed immediately and are still being taken for vaccine deliveries from mid-October.

Influenza vaccines for eligible children are centrally procured by UKHSA and are supplied free of charge to providers via ImmForm. These vaccines will NOT be reimbursed as part of the NHS Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme.

In planning for the forthcoming flu vaccination season, all providers should identify and work closely with their NHSE Regional Public Health Commissioning Team, to ensure the effective planning and delivery of the 2022/23 NHS Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme.

GPs and community pharmacies will also want to work closely with their Primary Care Networks to maximise vaccine coverage and to minimise vaccine wastage. This will also support the achievement of incentives within their respective contracts.

GPs and school-based providers must actively invite 100% of eligible individuals (e.g. by letter, email, phone call, text) and ensure uptake is as high as possible. Evidence may be requested requiring that providers demonstrate details of how and when these offers were made. The benefits of flu vaccination among all eligible groups should be communicated and vaccination made as easily accessible as possible. Please note, any national call and recall that may be commissioned again by NHSE will only supplement, and not replace, localised call and recall as a contractual obligation for participating GPs.

Providers should align delivery of the flu vaccination with other commissioned vaccination programmes that the patient may be eligible for (for instance COVID-19, shingles, or pneumococcal vaccines) where it is clinically permissible and operationally feasible.

Links to other key documents

Please refer to the [influenza chapter](#) in 'Immunisation against infectious disease' (the 'Green Book') for all other information regarding timing of flu vaccinations.

Document	Web Link
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Annual flu letter & Amendment to annual flu letter	www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan
Green Book Influenza Chapter	www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19
Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation Influenza advice	https://www.gov.uk/government/groups/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation
Flu vaccine uptake figures	www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-uptake
ImmForm website for ordering child flu vaccines	https://portal.immform.phe.gov.uk/Logon.aspx?returnurl=%2f