

Flu vaccinations 2023/24

GP Best Practice Pack for delivering flu vaccinations to 2-3 year olds and at risk children

South West Vaccination and Screening Team
NHS England – South West

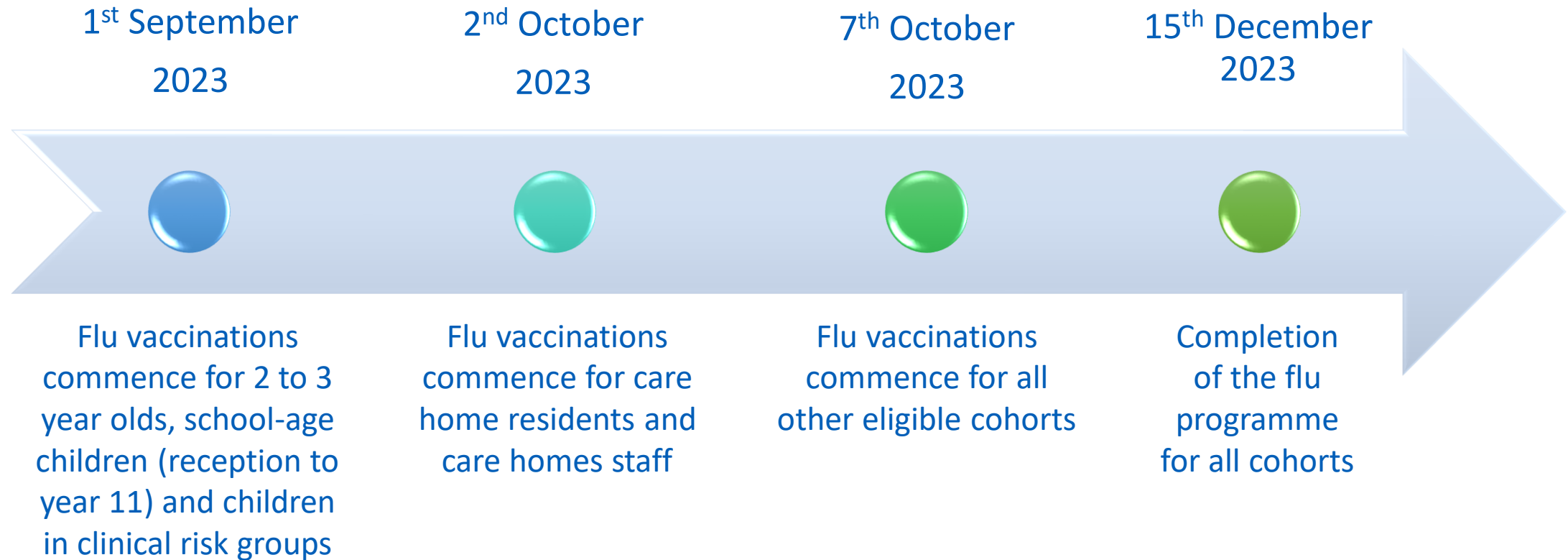
England.swvast@nhs.net

About this pack

- This pack has been designed to promote best practice when delivering the flu vaccination programme to 2-3 year olds and at-risk children.
- This pack reflects guidance from the National flu immunisation programme 2023 to 2024 letter and specific guidance and resources for children.
- If you need further guidance, please contact the South West Vaccination and Screening Team on england.swvast@nhs.net
- For clinical queries or incidents, please email: england.swicars@nhs.net



2023/24 Flu Timeline



Source: [NHS England » Autumn/Winter \(AW\) 2023-24 Flu and COVID-19 Seasonal Campaign](#)

Why vaccinate children now?

- Children must be prioritised early in the season to reduce transmission. By offering protection against the most prevalent strains of the influenza virus, it also helps to reduce the transmission of influenza in the wider population, some of whom are most at risk of serious illness or death should they develop influenza. This could be family members such as grandparents or even great grandparents.
- To ensure minimal impact on routine immunisations in the new year.
- To prevent children, especially those with underlying health conditions and in 'at-risk- groups, from getting seriously ill from flu and ending up hospital and adding additional pressures to hospitals during an already busy winter period.

What vaccine can children have?

under **6 months**
of age

6 months to under **2 years**

From **2 years**⁽ⁱ⁾ to less than **18 years** of age
in eligible year group or in a clinical risk group^(iv)

Infants under 6 months of age are too young to have the flu vaccine (this is why it is important that expectant mothers have a flu vaccination; pregnant women can have the flu vaccine at any stage of their pregnancy)

Are they in a clinical risk group?^(iv)

Is the LAIV nasal spray contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable?⁽ⁱⁱ⁾

No

They are not eligible for the flu vaccine

Yes

They should have the injected QIVc 'off label'

Or **QIVe**⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ if QIVc not available
Children in this age group who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

No

**No contraindications to LAIV nasal spray
They should have the LAIV nasal spray vaccine**

Children under 9 years of age in a clinical risk group^(iv) who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

Yes

**LAIV contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable
They should have the injected QIVc 'off label'**

Or **QIVe**⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ if QIVc not available
Children under 9 years of age in a clinical risk group^(iv) who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

(i) Aged 2 years on 31 August 2023, unless in a clinical risk group.
(ii) If the parent of an eligible child declines LAIV because of its porcine gelatine content, they can request an alternative injectable vaccine. QIVc is available to order from ImmForm for these children.
(iii) QIVe is not supplied by ImmForm.
(iv) Or a child who is a household contact of an immunocompromised individual.

Resources

Annual flu programme

www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme

Green Book Influenza Chapter 19

www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19



Which children can have their vaccine in a GP setting?

All 2- and 3-year-olds:	Age 6 months to 18 years and in an at-risk category:	Any child or young person (up to age 18) who is registered as a carer:
<p>All children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023 are eligible for a flu vaccine from 1 September 2023. GP practices should prioritise vaccination of 2 and 3-year-olds with LAIV over vaccination of adult cohorts; and commence as early as possible after the flu vaccine becomes available.</p>	<p>Please invite all at risk children to be vaccinated as soon as possible. School-aged children in a clinical risk group can receive their vaccination at school OR at their registered GP practice. However, general practices should continue to invite eligible school aged children in clinical risk groups for flu vaccination to ensure that they can access a vaccine before flu starts to circulate, where school sessions may be scheduled for later in the season or have been missed.</p>	<p>Please invite all young carers to be vaccinated. 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, 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.</p>

GP practices should ensure they have ordered sufficient vaccine to vaccinate the above cohorts with the aim of meeting or exceeding the levels of uptake achieved in 2022/23.

Vaccine can be ordered through Immform. Providers are expected to deliver a 100% offer to eligible groups.

Which children cannot have their vaccine in a GP setting?

School Aged Children (excluding clinically at-risk):

If school aged children miss a vaccination in school due to absence, are home educated or decline the nasal flu vaccine due to the porcine gelatine content, they will be vaccinated later at a 'catch-up session'.

Parents of children will be contacted by the School Aged Immunisation Team with details of the catch-up clinic they should attend. Should a parent contact a surgery requesting a vaccination, and their child is NOT in an at-risk group, please signpost them to the relevant provider.

Details of SAIs provider can be found on the next slide 

School Aged Immunisation Providers

Locality	Provider	Address	Contact no.	Contact email / website
Bristol, North Somerset & South Glos	Sirona Care and Health	Kingswood Civic Centre High Street, Kingswood Bristol, BS15 9TR	0300 124 5515	Email: sirona.sch-imms@nhs.net Website: https://www.sirona-cic.org.uk/nhsservices/services/school-age-flu-vaccination/
Bath & North-East Somerset, Swindon & Wilts	HCRG Care Group	HCRG Care Group Services Ltd, 1st Floor, Technology House, Unit 10, High Post Business Park, SP4 6AT	0300 247 0082	Email: Vcl.immunisations@nhs.net Website: https://wiltshirechildrensservices.co.uk/immunisation-service/
Cornwall	Kernow Health CIC	1st Floor Cudmore House Oak Lane Truro, TR1 3LP	01872 221105	Email: kernowhealthcic.schoolimmunisation@nhs.net Website: https://www.kernowhealthcic.org.uk/primary-care-services/school-immunisations/
Devon	Kernow Health CIC	1st Floor Cudmore House Oak Lane Truro, TR1 3LP	01872 221105	Email: kernowhealthcic.schoolimmunisation@nhs.net Website: https://www.kernowhealthcic.org.uk/primary-care-services/school-immunisations/
Dorset	Dorset Health Care 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	SAI Nursing Team (Somerset NHS Foundation Trust)	Mallard Court, Express Park, Bristol Road, Bridgwater, TA6 4RN	0300 323 0032	Email: somersetstaint@somersetft.nhs.uk Website: https://www.somersetft.nhs.uk/saints-school-age-immunisation-team/

Ways to increase uptake

- Inform and invite children and adults in eligible groups for flu vaccination during face-to-face interactions, whenever the opportunity arises.
- Ensure the invitation comes from a healthcare practitioner that they know, such as a practice nurse, midwife, doctor, or health visitor.
- Advise parents/carers about the benefits of flu vaccination. Do this whenever the opportunity arises, for example when they attend routine appointments or for other childhood immunisations/vaccination programmes such as pre-school boosters.
- Consider how local stakeholders can help promote the flu vaccination such as pre-school/nursery settings, maternity and health visitor services.
- Think about how you can make your practice/clinic room more child friendly for their vaccination i.e. tv showing children's programmes in the waiting room, having water and a healthy snack available, having stickers as a reward.

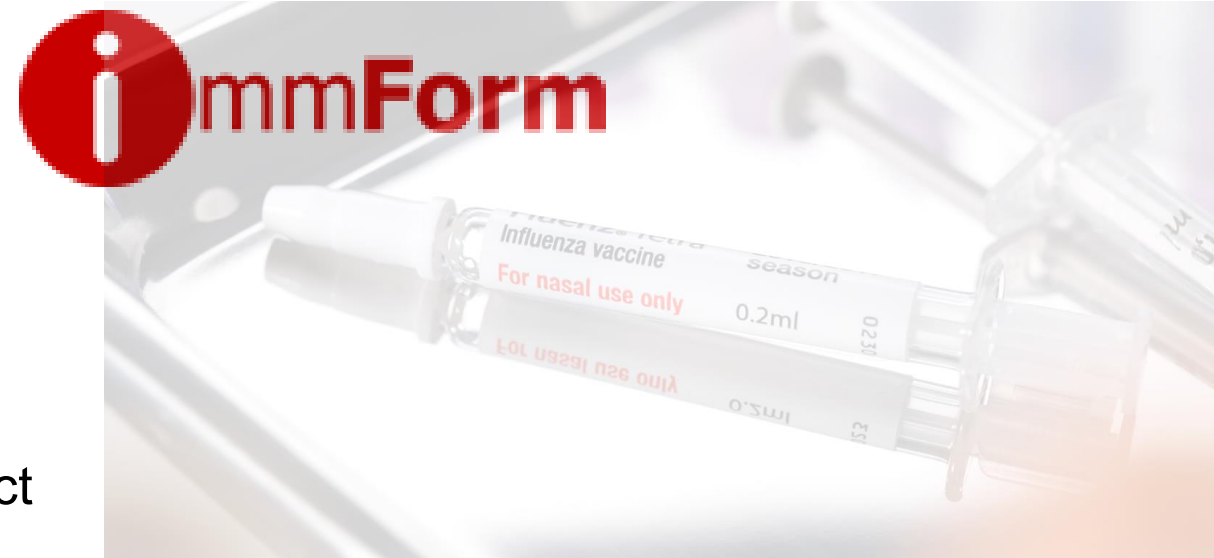
Ordering vaccine stock

Vaccines are only available for ordering through the ImmForm website. This ensures ordering is easier and more effective and efficient.

To register on ImmForm please go to <https://www.immform.dh.gov.uk/registration/>

You will need to supply your:

- NHS code (e.g. practice code)
- delivery address
- name, email and phone details (of the key contact responsible for placing orders)



Cold chain management


To help avoid vaccine wastage through cold chain incidents, here are some helpful hints:

A validated vaccine fridge must be:

- suitable for the storage of vaccines between +2 and +8C – a mid-range of +5C is good practice
- locked or kept in a locked room
- used only to store vaccines and medicines, i.e., food or specimens must not be stored alongside vaccines
- large enough to hold the stock and allow sufficient space around the vaccine packages for air to circulate
- wired into switch-less sockets to avoid them being turned off accidentally
- safe – for example, by carrying out visual inspections and P&T testing. Vaccines stored in validated vaccine fridges must be kept in their original packaging.

Public Health England **NHS**

Keep your vaccines healthy



When ordering

- Order when you have two to four weeks' worth of stock left
- You can make weekly orders, so it's best to order smaller amounts regularly
- Some vaccines come in multidose packs – check you order the correct number of doses
- Check Vaccine Update newsletter for latest information

When receiving your order

- Check your delivery is correct and undamaged before you sign for it
- Refrigerate the stock as soon as you have checked it off against the order
- Do not over fill the fridge as this restricts the airflow
- Ensure the shortest-dated stock is placed at the front of the fridge

When stocking your fridge

- Check expiry dates regularly – never use out of date vaccine
- Keep vaccines in their original packaging in the main part of the fridge, not in drawers
- Keep your fridge door locked at all times
- Keep the opening of the fridge door to a minimum
- Use a maximum-minimum thermometer and keep a daily record of the temperatures
- Have back-up storage for your vaccines in case of power failure
- Position the fridge away from heat sources and mark or tape the fridge plug to avoid it being turned off accidentally
- See Chapter 3 of the Green Book for more information

Keep a record of your account details

Our NHS Movianto account number is _____

We need to place orders before 11:55 am on a _____

for a delivery on _____

Immunisation
The safest way to protect your health

When responding to a vaccine storage incident, please follow the guidance at www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-incident-guidance-responding-to-vaccine-errors. In the event of vaccine wastage, please record it on the [Imvanto Stock Incident](#) page. If you have any vaccination delivery queries, please call **Movianto** directly on 01234 248622.

Resources

The South West Vaccination and Screening Team, including our flu locality coordinators, can provide support and guidance. To contact us, please email england.swvast@nhs.net. For clinical queries and incidents, please email england.swicars@nhs.net

Resource links:

National Flu Letter 2023/4 - [National flu immunisation programme 2023 to 2024 letter - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118122/national-flu-immunisation-programme-2023-to-2024-letter.pdf)

Amendment to Flu Letter 2023/4 - [Statement of amendment to the annual flu letter for 2023 to 2024 – 3 July 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118122/statement-of-amendment-to-the-annual-flu-letter-for-2023-to-2024-3-july-2023.pdf)

Flu programme start dates - [NHS England » Autumn/Winter \(AW\) 2023-24 Flu and COVID-19 Seasonal Campaign](https://www.nhs.uk/flu-campaign/2023-24)

Flu vaccines for children and young people - [Which flu vaccine should children and young people have? \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118122/which-flu-vaccine-should-children-and-young-people-have.pdf)

Flu vaccines childrens leaflets and posters - [Flu vaccination for children: leaflets and posters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118122/flu-vaccination-for-children-leaflets-and-posters.pdf)

Immunising preschool children against flu - [Immunising preschool children against flu \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118122/immunising-preschool-children-against-flu.pdf)

Flu vaccination: Increasing uptake guidance - [Recommendations | Flu vaccination: increasing uptake | Guidance | NICE](https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/CG146)

Top tips for supporting children and young people during vaccination - [PowerPoint Presentation \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/flu-campaign/2023-24/top-tips-for-supporting-children-and-young-people-during-vaccination/)

Protocol for ordering, storing and handling vaccines - [Protocol for ordering storing and handling vaccines \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118122/protocol-for-ordering-storing-and-handling-vaccines.pdf)

Keep your vaccines healthy - [Keep your vaccines healthy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/118122/keep-your-vaccines-healthy.pdf)