



## South West Collaborative Commissioning Hub

### **The 2024/25 Influenza vaccination programme starts in maternity on 1<sup>st</sup> of September**

Timing of this year's Flu Season The seasonal influenza vaccination programme was described in the National flu immunisation programme 2024-25 letter on the Government's website. The letter outlined that vaccination for children and pregnant women will start from 1 September 2024 and other adult vaccinations will commence in October. NHS England can now confirm that all other flu vaccinations will commence 3 October 2024.

#### Maternity vaccination checklist

- **Have a lead midwife responsible for the vaccines in pregnancy programme** – this is your advocate and go to person for vaccines in pregnancy
- **Ensure you have sight of the enhanced service specification for delivering flu and pertussis**-Check your contracts team have received the offer from NHS England and have signed up to deliver to vaccines in the maternity setting
- **Plan your model of delivery**- When and where are you offering flu and pertussis vaccination ( RSV vaccination is given from 28 weeks, pertussis vaccination given from 16 weeks, flu anytime in pregnancy in flu season Sept-March)
- **Train your staff**- On delivering immunisations and the benefits of protecting themselves and their baby from flu, RSV and pertussis
- **Offer vaccination at every visit to antenatal clinic/scan/day assessment**- have you had your flu/pertussis/ RSV vaccination yet?
- **Notification to GP**– have a mechanism to notify the woman's GP, either by letter or electronic transfer, so the GP can update the woman's records
- **Complete data reporting templates**- to return to NHS England for payment of vaccines given
- **Notify staff of the number of vaccines given throughout flu season/ every month for pertussis and RSV**- to encourage promotion of vaccinations to pregnant women and improve uptake

#### Review last season

- **Check your uptake figures** on flu and pertussis and see how you did last year.

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- **Identify what went well and where you could improve** – for example, was it helpful offering flu vaccine at the booking appointment or is it easier after the 12/20 week scan. Is it available for women attending day assessment unit
- **Set a higher goal for uptake** than you achieved in the previous season. Get your team involved and try and increase uptake on the previous year

### Involve all staff

- **Your staff are key to a successful flu, RSV and pertussis programmes.**
- **Make sure all staff in all roles understand the importance of the vaccine programmes** and the impact that flu, RSV and pertussis can have on pregnant women.
- **All staff should be advocates for vaccination.**
- Make sure non-clinical staff know where they can **signpost women** for more information on the flu and pertussis vaccination.
- **Keep staff enthused during the season** – consider an incentive promoting staff /department competition.

### Influenza – training and resources

- Healthcare practitioners should refer to [the influenza chapter](#) in ‘Immunisation against infectious disease’ (the ‘Green Book’) for further detail about clinical risk groups advised to receive flu immunisation and advice on contraindications and precautions for the flu vaccines.
- Information for healthcare practitioners about the childhood flu programme and the inactivated flu vaccines, and links to an flu vaccination training slide set and the flu vaccination e-learning programme will be available on the [Annual flu programme webpage](#) and the [e-learning for healthcare Flu Immunisation web page](#).
- UKHSA will develop PGDs that will be available prior to commencement of the programme at [Immunisation patient group direction \(PGD\) templates](#) and [Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Service](#). A [national protocol for inactivated flu vaccines](#) will also be available.