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Dear Chief Executive

Protect yourself, your family and our patients from flu this winter

It's now more important than ever that we act to protect ourselves, our teams, our patients and our families from getting flu. The [second annual flu letter](#) sent on 5 August described this year's significantly expanded flu vaccine programme.

Trusts can help with three of the cohorts eligible for vaccination – pregnant women, people under 65 in clinical risk groups, and healthcare workers.

We have found that pregnant women who are offered a flu vaccination when attending routine maternity appointments are very likely to accept the offer. If your Trust does not offer this service, please look to do so as we are keen to expand provision across England.

We also need to boost the number of people vaccinated who are in a clinically 'at risk' group, as set out in the flu letter, please offer the vaccination to any eligible patients attending in- and out-patient appointments.

Regional commissioners will be in contact shortly to discuss contractual arrangements.

You will have seen the open letter sent to all NHS frontline staff asking them to get their flu jab https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/B0186_Flu-vacc-letter-to-frontline-staff_16sep.pdf. This year, more than ever, we need to protect those most at risk from flu, so it is vital that you have a plan in place to vaccinate as many of your staff as possible against flu.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Stephen Powis'.

Professor Stephen Powis
National Medical Director
NHS England and NHS Improvement