

Flu update

As we head downhill towards flu season, we are sharing key bits of info as they filter through:

Flu letter: [Statement of amendment to the annual flu letter for 2024 to 2025 – 12 June 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Vaccines for this year: [Influenza ovalbumin table \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

The **CQRS service offers** for Child Flu and Seasonal Flu have now been released to all practices that completed the form confirming their intent to provide flu services for 2024-25. There are just over 100 practices in NWL who are yet to accept these service offers and we ask that these are accepted as soon as possible.

Please be reminded that **only pregnant women and child flu vaccinations can be given from 1st September 2024** (as stock deliveries allow). All other cohorts are to receive vaccinations from the **3rd October 2024** start date. This applies to all providers including pharmacies. Vaccinations given prior to the official start dates will not be eligible for a payment. The full eligibility criteria and programme start dates are listed within the Annual Flu Letter (link above). This is following JCVI guidance that it is preferable to vaccinate individuals closer to the time when the flu virus is likely to circulate (which typically peaks in December or January), as this will provide optimal protection during the highest risk period.

Vaccination of **all COVID-19 cohorts** will start on 3rd October at the same time as all other adult flu cohorts, as set out in the flu letter.

Payment will only be made for flu and COVID-19 vaccinations administered from the service commencement date onwards.

To note it is by exception as stated in the flu letter where an earlier vaccination may be considered:

Following clinical assessment, there may be a small number of other adults for whom it would be better not to delay flu vaccination until October. For example, for those who are due to commence immunosuppressive treatment (such as chemotherapy) before October, having flu vaccine before they start treatment would allow them to make a better response to their vaccination. GPs should use clinical judgement to bring forward vaccination in exceptional circumstances, as outlined in the Green Book, and offer vaccination as soon as vaccine comes available in line with contractual arrangements.

The Healthcare professional training materials are now available for the 2024 to 2025 flu season. Please see the links below:

- The national flu immunisation programme for **2024 to 2025 slide set** is available to download from the annual flu collection
<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme#2024-to-2025-flu-season>
- Flu vaccination programme 2024 to 2025: **information for healthcare practitioners**
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccination-programme-information-for-healthcare-practitioners/flu-vaccination-programme-2023-to-2024-information-for-healthcare-practitioners>

- **Flu immunisation training recommendations**

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-immunisation-training-recommendations>

A new flyer '**When should I have my flu vaccine?**' can be ordered from the health publications website (product code: 24FLUWEN):

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewProduct.html?sp=Swhencanigetmyfluvaccine>

The **British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA)** have updated their 2 resources which explain the benefits of flu vaccination, the Islamic position on taking up the vaccine, and how to weigh up whether your children should have the nasal spray vaccine given the porcine gelatine content and conflict with a halal diet. BIMA are happy to be contacted for any local queries on info@britishima.org and you can download these resources from:

<https://britishima.org/advice/flu-2024/>

Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any queries:

nhsnwl.immunisations@nhs.net