

Seasonal Influenza Season Reminders

Dear Colleagues,

As we are racing downhill towards the start of the seasonal influenza programme, just a few key points/reminders for this season as we have the same staggered start this year as last so the start of the adult programme for 2025 to 2026 will again be from the beginning of October (this year starting on the 1st October) with the majority of the vaccinations to be completed by the end of November. This later start date is based on the advice from JCVI concerning the waning of flu vaccine's effectiveness in adults which means 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. The children's programme will commence from the 1st September or when LAIV (nasal spray) becomes available to order (dates TBC and will be shared as soon as we are notified).

From 1st September 2025 eligible groups include:

- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2025
- all primary school aged children from reception to Year 6
- secondary school-aged children in years 7 to 11 (individuals 18 years and over attending a special education needs (SEN) school and who are in a clinical risk group may also be vaccinated alongside their peers)
- those aged 6 months to under 18 years in clinical risk groups (as defined in the [Green Book, Chapter 19 \(Influenza\)](#))

From 1st October 2025 eligible groups are:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the [Green Book, Influenza chapter 19](#))
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme including those working for a registered residential care or nursing home, registered domiciliary care providers, voluntary managed hospice providers and those that are employed by those who receive direct payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health budgets, such as Personal Assistants

Useful Resources and Further Guidance:

- [National flu immunisation programme 2025 to 2026 letter - GOV.UK](#)
- [Amendment to national flu immunisation programme 2025 to 2026 letter - GOV.UK](#)
- [Flu vaccination programme 2025 to 2026: information for healthcare practitioners - GOV.UK](#)
- [Influenza vaccines marketed in the UK - GOV.UK](#) – includes egg (ovalbumin) content/egg free vaccines guidance
- [Annual flu programme - GOV.UK](#)

Community pharmacy delivery of 2-3-year-old flu vaccinations

To help support improvements in access and uptake, community pharmacies will be able to offer 2-3-year-olds flu vaccinations during the 2025 to 2026 flu season on an opportunistic basis. Community pharmacy service delivery will begin from 1st October 2025, supplementing the offer in General Practice who will start vaccinating from the 1st September 2025, or as soon as vaccine is available. Participating pharmacies across NWL – currently 121 have signed up to deliver, will have an initial delivery of 10 LAIV doses each.

Seasonal influenza vaccine programme 2025-2026 service sign-up

Just a reminder, as per last week's bulletin – please may any practices who are yet to indicate their participation in these programmes please do so by filling out the below MS Teams form here:

<https://forms.office.com/e/XTa9eDy15y>

The CQRS service offers will only be released to those practices who have confirmed their intention to participate using the above form. Please contact the NHSE London Immunisation Team with any queries in relation to the sign-up process at england.londonimms@nhs.net.