

Key Messages for Patients

Reminders from ‘Why am I being asked to wait?’ leaflet:

➤ **I am in one of the listed groups. Why am I being asked to wait to have my flu vaccine?**

Overall there is no shortage of flu vaccine with enough ordered to vaccinate 30 million people. However, it is usual for manufacturers to stagger deliveries of vaccine so you may have to wait to receive your vaccination.

When the first deliveries arrive in September, vaccinations begin to be offered and these continue throughout the autumn. This season, early demand for flu vaccine has been higher than usual due to concerns about the coronavirus pandemic. This means that some GP practices and pharmacies will have to ask people to wait until they receive further deliveries.

➤ **Can I go elsewhere if my GP practice or pharmacy has run out?**

If you are eligible for the free flu vaccine, you may get it either from your GP practice or a pharmacy offering NHS flu vaccinations. This means that if one of them does not currently have stock in, you can try elsewhere. They should also be able to tell you when they expect their next deliveries.

Pregnant women can ask their maternity provider for the free flu vaccine and some of those visiting hospitals, either as in- or out-patients may also be offered the flu vaccine there.

➤ **Why are some people still being offered the vaccine and not others?**

There are several types of flu vaccines available. You will be offered one that is recommended for you based on your age. This means some people will be offered a flu vaccine that is in stock while others, who need a different type of vaccine, may have to wait.

➤ **Wouldn't it be better to have any type of flu vaccine rather than wait?**

Providers of flu vaccination services are required to offer the vaccine that is most effective for you. It is better to wait to get the right vaccine so that you get the most benefit from it.

➤ **When do you need to have a flu vaccination for it to offer protection?**

It is best to have the vaccine before flu starts to circulate, which is usually from December onwards. But if it is later in the year than this, it is still worth having.

The priority this season is to vaccinate those who are most at risk from flu first, including anyone aged 50 to 64 years old who has a health condition that makes them more at risk from flu. Other healthy 50 to 64 year olds will be offered the vaccine later in the season when additional supply becomes available.

➤ **What should I do now?**

If you can't have your flu vaccine now, you will receive a letter notifying you when you can book an appointment at your GP surgery or pharmacy. Or you can stay in touch with them and book one at the next opportunity.

Flu and Covid: FAQs and Key Messages

Getting the flu vaccine is more important than ever this year, as people at high risk from COVID-19 are also those most at risk from flu.

➤ **Should a patient feeling unwell have a vaccination?**

Vaccination may be postponed in those who are acutely unwell until they have fully recovered. This is to avoid confusing the differential diagnosis of any acute illness by wrongly attributing any signs or symptoms to the adverse effects of the vaccine.

➤ **Should a patient who is self-isolating attend for a vaccination?**

Those displaying symptoms of COVID-19, other infections, or who are self-isolating because they are contacts of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 cases, should not attend.

Patients eligible to receive NHS-funded flu vaccine but recently in contact with or diagnosed with COVID-19 infection can be vaccinated when recovered and self-isolation requirements have been fulfilled.

➤ **What should I do about a fever following a flu vaccination?**

Vaccinated individuals, parents and carers should be advised that flu vaccines may cause a mild fever which usually resolves within 48 hours. This is a common, expected reaction and **isolation is not required unless COVID-19 is suspected**. Feeling generally unwell, shivery, achy and tired are also commonly reported symptoms following flu vaccination. These symptoms usually disappear within one to two days without treatment, but paracetamol can be given if necessary to relieve any of these symptoms. As has always been recommended, any fever after vaccination should be monitored and if individuals, parents or carers are concerned about their, or their child's health at any time, they should seek advice from their GP or NHS 111.

➤ **Will the flu vaccine make you test positive for coronavirus?**

The flu vaccine will not interfere with testing for COVID-19.

The test for COVID-19 looks for the specific genetic sequence of the SARS-CoV-2 virus which causes COVID-19 disease.

Flu viruses have a very different genetic sequence from the SARS-CoV-2 virus so having the flu vaccine cannot affect the result of the COVID-19 virus test.

Ordering Stock for 2021/22 Flu season – Important Reminder

Cohorts for next year's flu season have not yet been confirmed, so please ensure that if you are ordering vaccine for next season, that any orders placed can be amended or cancelled if necessary.

ImmForm – Important Data Collection Dates

Please make sure you are registered with ImmForm if you have not already done so.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/how-to-register-immform-helpline-8>

If you require any assistance with registering, please contact the ImmForm Helpdesk on 0207 183 8580 or email Helpdesk@immform.org.uk

Flu (GP Patients) and Flu Childhood (GP Patients) vaccine uptake 2020-21

Monthly Collection Schedule

Reminder – monthly survey data collections will begin soon.

For October's data collection, data must be entered either automatically (contact your GPSS for advice if necessary) or manually by 16/11/2020. If you are manually uploading, we recommend commencing this ASAP when the survey opens (1/11/20) in case problems are encountered.

ALL GP PRACTICES MONTHLY SURVEYS					
Survey Month	Data up to Date	Survey Start Date	GP System Supplier Submit End Date	Manual Survey End Date	PHE Monthly publication date
OCTOBER	Sat 31/10/2020	Sun 01/11/2020	Tue 10/11/2020	Mon 16/11/2020	Thu 26/11/2020
NOVEMBER	Mon 30/11/2020	Tue 01/12/2020	Wed 09/12/2020	Tue 15/12/2020	Fri 25/12/2020
DECEMBER	Thu 31/12/2020	Fri 01/01/2021	Tue 12/01/2021	Mon 18/01/2021	Thu 28/01/2021
JANUARY	Sun 31/01/2021	Mon 01/02/2021	Tue 09/02/2021	Mon 15/02/2021	Thu 25/02/2021
FEBRUARY	Sun 28/02/2021	Mon 01/03/2021	Tue 09/03/2021	Mon 15/03/2021	Thu 25/03/2021

How to participate in this collection

Automated data will only be collected from GP practices whose suppliers have the capability to extract data automatically.

We anticipate the following GP system suppliers (GPSS) will participate:

- EMIS Health
- INPS (Vision)
- Microtest
- TPP (SystemOne)

The automated uploads generally include all data items.

Please contact your GPSS if your data does not appear by the day after the GPSS submission end date.

The monthly collections are 'all practice' surveys i.e. open to both automated and manual data returns for this collection.

For those submitting their data manually, they need only submit the mandatory data items, namely:

- Those aged 65 years and older
- Those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups excluding pregnant women
- Pregnant women
- Children aged 2 to 11 years (Flu Childhood collection only)

However, for the final survey we will request the data returns to be as comprehensive as possible with those submitting their data manually to complete the optional data fields as well as the mandatory ones, wherever possible.

Healthcare Worker Flu Vaccine Uptake Surveys for 2020-21

The healthcare worker (HCW) Collection Tool was developed to assist local NHS England teams in collecting seasonal flu vaccine uptake data from non-Trust Frontline HCWs in general practice in an **efficient** and **timely** manner.

This survey will collect influenza vaccine uptake data by frontline healthcare workers (HCWs) involved with direct patient care from Local NHS England Teams including **general practice**.

The tool will allow **GP practices to submit data for their staff**. Local NHS England teams will be able to see which practices have or have not provided data and can view the data submitted by individual practices.

Data submissions will need to be done manually by entering data directly onto an ImmForm survey form. There is no facility to have data automatically submitted.

Please see link below for a user guide to using the data collection tool:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/921789/Data_collection_tool-Seasonal_influenza_frontline_healthcare_workers_vaccine_uptake.pdf

Key Facts and Collection Schedule

The survey will comprise of **five, monthly** 'Collection Tool' surveys that local NHS England teams can will to assist with the collection of uptake data from non-Trust frontline HCWs in **general practice**.

Data for this survey are **cumulative** i.e. the number of flu vaccines administered **since 1 September 2020 to the end of each survey month inclusive of both dates**.

Each survey will open on the **first working day of each month**, for the **previous month's data**. The surveys will be open for **seven working days** for, GP Practices.

The start and end dates for each monthly survey are given in the table below:

Survey Month	For data covering vaccinations administered from 1 September 2020 up to date	Survey Start Date	GP & Trusts Survey End Date (7 working days)
October	Sat 31/10/2020	Sun 01/11/2020	Tue 10/11/2020
November	Mon 30/11/2020	Tue 01/12/2020	Wed 09/12/2020
December	Thu 31/12/2020	Fri 01/01/2021	Tue 12/01/2021
January	Sun 31/01/2021	Mon 01/02/2021	Tue 09/02/2021
February	Sun 28/02/2021	Mon 01/03/2021	Tue 09/03/2021

If you are unable to access ImmForm or are still unsure how to submit your data, please contact **Emily White** from the South West Screening & Immunisation team who will be able to answer any queries: england.swscreeningandimms@nhs.net

Please note: once the deadline for manual submission has passed each month, your practice will display no data/ no vaccinations given and you will have to wait until the following month's data upload to input your figures. The supply of ImmForm data is part of the service delivery and a mandated return, as laid out in service specifications. We would advise practices to log in and check data once it has been uploaded to check its accuracy and that it reflects actual uptake.

Link to user guide for entering data manually:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seasonal-influenza-vaccine-uptake-gp-patient-survey-data-collection>