Autumn/winter Flu & Covid-19 Vaccination Programme 2025/26

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Who is eligible?

Flu	COVID-19
65's and over	75's and over
All Care home residents & staff	All care home residents for older adults
Clinically at risk individuals (6mths +)	Immunosuppressed individuals (6mths +)
Pregnant women	[redacted]
Health and social care workers	
Pre-school children	
School children (up to year 12)	
Close contacts of immunosuppressed	
Carers	
High risk poultry & avian animal health workers	

Key changes from last Autumn

Cohorts no longer eligible:



Flu	COVID-19
Non at risk 50-64 year olds	65-74 year olds
	Front line Health and Social Care workers
	Clinically at risk (non immunosuppressed)
	Pregnant women

Vaccine Type

Flu

- aIIV (65+)
- IIVc (under 65 years)
- LAIV (Fluenz) (Aged 2 years to less than 18 years)

Covid -19

- Comirnaty KP.2(Pfizer)

Administered by Trusts

- Comirnaty LP.8.1 (Pfizer) *Paediatric formula*
- Comirnaty LP.8.1(Pfizer) *Infant formula*

Delivery Model (Flu)



GP

- 65+
- 18+ in a clinical risk group
- Children aged 6 months to 2 years in a clinical risk group
- Pre-school children aged 2-4 years
- Close contacts of immunosuppressed individuals
- Carers
- Pregnant women



Trusts

- Housebound referrals from GP
- Inpatients (within eligibility)
- Pregnant women (antenatal vaccine clinics)
- Health and Social Care workers
- Alternative option *where GP option not available*



Community Pharmacy

- Alternative offer *where GP option not available*
- Care home for older adults residents (paired) including Care home staff



School Nursing

- All Primary School children
- Secondary School children up to Year 12

Delivery Model (Covid-19)



GP

- 75+
- 18+ immunosuppressed



Trusts

- 6 months to 17 year old immunosuppressed
- Housebound referrals from GP
- Inpatients (within eligibility)
- Alternative option *where GP option not available*



Community Pharmacy

- Alternative offer *where GP option not available*
- Care home for older adults residents (paired)

Housebound referrals

All eligible housebound patients should be referred by GPs to Trusts as soon as possible and no later that ***30th September.***

New developments

- Due to the changed eligibility for COVID-19 (i.e. 75s and over), GPs should provide Trust vaccination teams with **2 separate housebound referral lists** one for those patients eligible for both flu and COVID-19 and the other for those patients eligible for flu only.
- A housebound protocol has been developed which outlines the referral process to be followed between GP practices and Trust vaccination teams and this can be found in appendix 6 of the PHA Operational Letter

Training and PGDs



Training available:

- Professional information | HSC Public Health Agency (hscni.net)
- NHSE elfh Hub (e-lfh.org.uk)

- PGDs available prior to start of programme through primary care intranet

Public Communication

- Updates to N.I Direct
- Press release
- General Social Media
- Presentation to Care Home Clinical Forum
- Letter via charities and targeted social media for cohorts



No resource allocated this year for paid for comms

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Public Communication

- Public information leaflets (web and print)



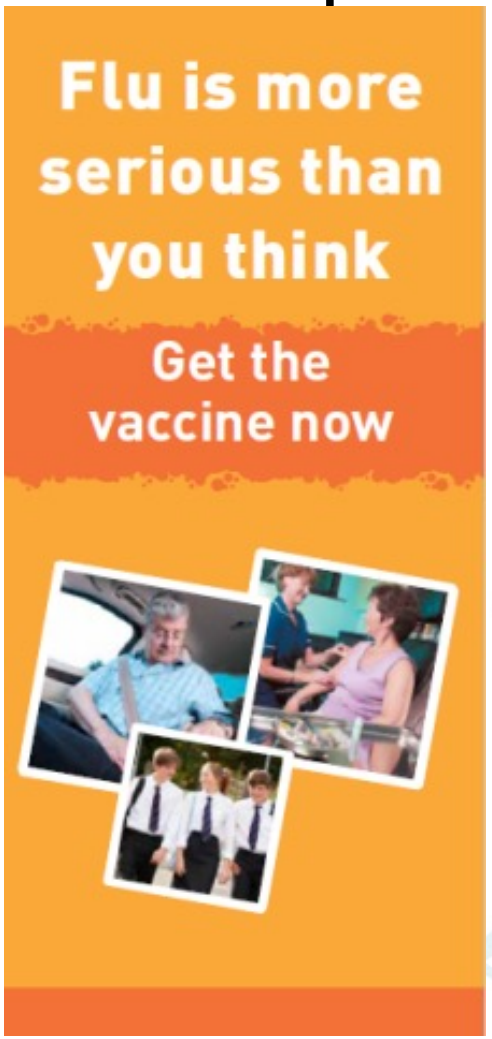
The Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine will be offered from October to people aged 75 and over, residents in care homes for older people and anyone aged 6 months and over who is immunosuppressed to protect them ahead of winter.

Who is being offered COVID-19 vaccination?

COVID-19 is more serious in older people and in people who are immunosuppressed. This winter it is expected that many respiratory infections, including COVID-19 and flu may be circulating at high levels – this may put increasing pressure on hospitals and other health care services. For these reasons, people aged 75 years and over, those in older adult care homes, and those aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed are being offered a COVID-19 vaccine from October.

The vaccination programme is targeted at those at high risk of the complications of COVID-19 infection, who may have not been vaccinated for a few months. As the number of COVID-19 infections may increase over the winter, this should help to reduce your risk of being admitted to hospital with COVID-19. The vaccine may also provide some protection against mild COVID-19 infection but such protection does not last for long.

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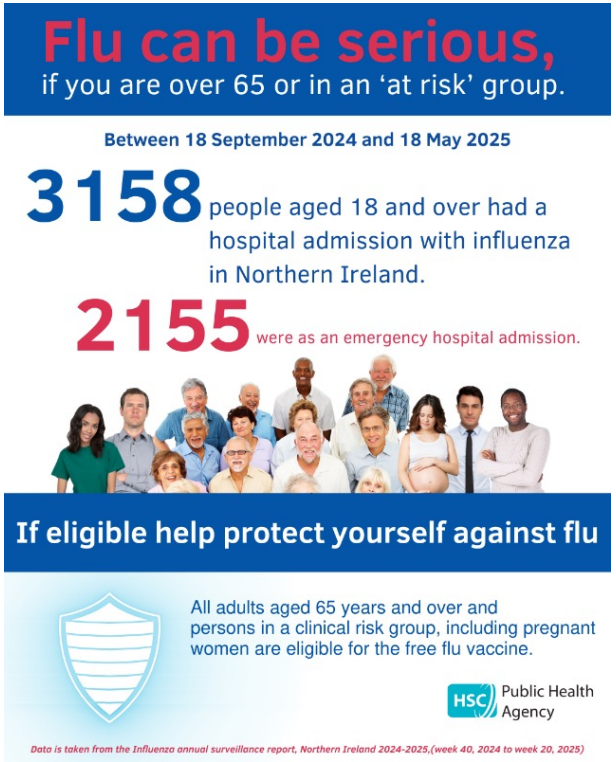
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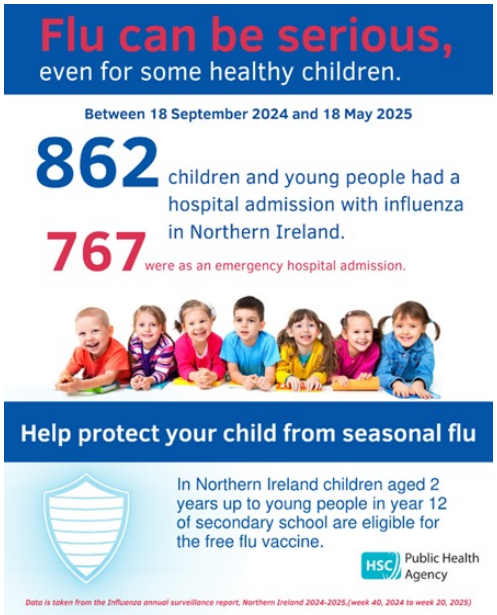
Professional Resources

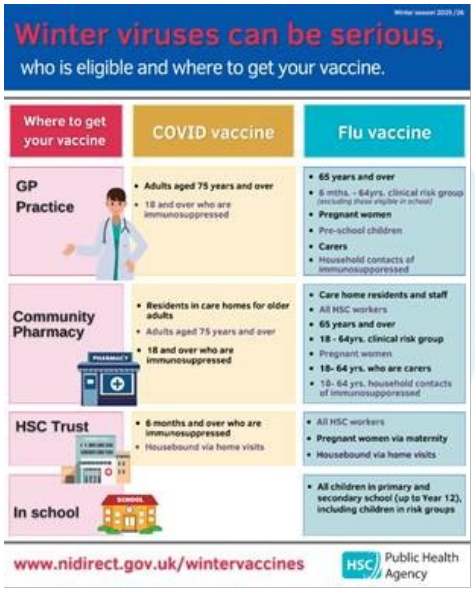
Professional resources (including social media resources) are available via PHA website – feel free to reshare via own socials

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/services-and-teams/public-health-services/health-protection/vaccination-and-immunisation-1

https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/services-and-teams/public-health-services/health-protection/vaccination-and-immunisation-0







Vaccine Supply

PHA procures vaccines for the NI public programme based upon data driven insights which include a number of factors such as previous uptake, population projections and within-programme residual waste.

PHA have allocated quotas for practices based on the number of administered vaccines recorded on VMS for the Autumn 2024/25 Programme

- Based on GP feedback from last years programme, 100% of Flu and Covid-19 quotas are available to order from the beginning of the 2025/26 programme
- In order to make best use of vaccine available, PHA are asking all providers to exhaust their initial quota and record the administrations on VMS before a further uplift is approved

PHA want to thank GPs for their continued support during the vaccination programme and by following guidelines in the 2024/25 programme flu wastage within GP practices was reduced by 7%

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Vaccine Ordering

- Movianto NI opened ordering for Flu and Covid-19 vaccines on 15th September and deliveries started on 22nd September
- Orders placed by 12pm on any working day will be delivered within 2 working days.
- However, in the initial stages it may take up to 5 working days to receive delivery.
- Approval for emergency orders for vaccine will be granted in exceptional circumstances only e.g. fridge malfunction and not due to orders being placed outside of the ordering guidelines. There is a high cost involved with emergency orders which then impacts on the finances/budget of the vaccination programme.

Planning Clinics

- Plan clinics based upon the amount of vaccine that is available to your practice
- Only order vaccines 2 weeks ahead of the date of arranged clinics and allow enough time for delivery ahead of the planned clinic and allow 5 working day turnaround time for deliveries at the start of the programme.
- Quotas are based on total vaccines recorded during the last programme, including mop up clinics and opportunistic vaccinations.
- Quotas will only be uplifted for additional clinics when vaccines administrations are recorded on VMS.
- Please do not share any vaccine stock with other providers. This is for various complex legal reasons including vaccine traceability and governance.

All enquiries MUST be directed to pha.immunisation@hscni.net email inbox for the purposes of the audit trail. Please do not contact the PHA Duty Room for vaccine stock enquiries

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Cold Chain Incidents

- Each year there is significant wastage and clinic disruption due to cold chain incidents. There are significant costs relating to vaccine purchase, therefore every effort is needed to ensure vaccine wastage is minimal.
- While often talked about as fridge failures, in fact most are human error including leaving vaccines sitting out of the fridge or turning off the power supply.
- Please ensure all staff members are briefed that vaccines must be refrigerated ASAP and vaccine stock is placed promptly in the fridge when delivered by Movianto.

- Movianto do not have the facility to contact individual practices to confirm a delivery date – please ensure that your practice is ready to receive a delivery once your order is placed.
- Movianto delivery drivers are not responsible for placing the vaccines into practice fridges.

For the 2025/26 programme, since orders opened with Movianto on 15th September, PHA have been notified of a number of avoidable cold chain breaches, resulting in significant amount of wastage.

Changes to the Childhood schedule

Childhood vaccination programme 2025/26

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HSC Clinical Education Centre

Business Services Organisation

Supporting your Learning Journey

Childhood Vaccination Programme 2025/26

PURPOSE:

To enable participants develop the necessary knowledge and skills on changes to the childhood immunisation schedule NI to safely vaccinate children.

AUDIENCE:

Registered nurse, midwife, health visitor, SCPHN, paramedic, paediatrician, general practitioner.

Date	Venue	Time
1 Sept 2025	CEC Altnagelvin	9.15am – 1.30pm
4 Sept 2025	CEC Clady Villa, Belfast	9.15am – 1.30pm
8 Sept 2025	CEC Fern House, Antrim	9.15am – 1.30pm
11 Sept 2025	St Luke's Hospital, Armagh	9.15am – 1.30pm
17 Sept 2025	CEC Fern House, Antrim	9.15am – 1.30pm
19 Sept 2025	South Tyrone Hospital, Dungannon	9.15am – 1.30pm
24 Sept 2025	CEC Clady Villa, Belfast	9.15am – 1.30pm
25 Sept 2025	CEC Altnagelvin	9.15am – 1.30pm
29 Sept 2025	South Tyrone Hospital, Dungannon	9.15am – 1.30pm

This new programme aims to highlight the recent changes to the childhood vaccination schedule NI. It focuses on vaccination **from birth to those aged up to five years.**

It aims to enable participants develop the necessary **knowledge** and **skills** to **safely vaccinate children**.

The programme will help explain the **current immunisation schedule** in the UK and provide an **overview of the diseases** that are vaccinated against, learn how to apply **health promotion principles**, **providing reliable robust information** relating to vaccines and demonstrate **how to safely and effectively administer a vaccine.**

https://cec.hscni.net/immunisation-childhood-vaccination-schedules/

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Questions

pha.immunisation@hscni.net