

Flu vaccine 21-22 overview

Overview

As a result of non-pharmaceutical interventions in place for COVID-19 (such as mask-wearing, physical and social distancing, and restricted international travel) influenza activity levels were extremely low globally in 2020 to 2021. This may lead to a lower level of population immunity against influenza is expected in 2021 to 2022.

In the situation where social mixing and social contact return towards pre-pandemic norms, it is expected that winter 2021 to 2022 will be the first winter in the UK when seasonal influenza virus (and other respiratory viruses) will co-circulate alongside COVID-19. Therefore is a significant drive across the population to protect local residents from influenza, with update eligibility criteria

Eligibility

- all children aged 2 to 15 (but not 16 years or older) on 31 August 2021
- those aged 6 months to under 50 years in clinical risk groups
 - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as asthma (requires continuous or repeated use of inhaled or systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis
 - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
 - chronic kidney disease at stage 3, 4 or 5
 - chronic liver disease
 - chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease
 - learning disability
 - diabetes
 - splenic dysfunction or asplenia
 - a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
 - morbidly obese (defined as BMI of 40 and above)
- pregnant women
- those aged 50 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline health and social care staff employed by:
 - a registered residential care or nursing home
 - registered domiciliary care provider
 - a voluntary managed hospice provider
 - Direct Payment (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants.

Vaccines

Summary table of which influenza vaccines to offer

Eligible group	Type of influenza vaccine
At risk children aged from 6 months to less than 2 years	Offer QIVe. LAIV and QIVc are not licensed for children under 2 years of age.
At risk children aged 2 to under 18 years ^[footnote 3]	Offer LAIV. If LAIV is contraindicated (or it is otherwise unsuitable) offer QIVc
Aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2021	Offer LAIV
Primary school aged children and those in Year 7 to 11 in secondary school (aged 4 to 15 on 31 August 2021)	If LAIV is contraindicated (or it is otherwise unsuitable) offer QIVc ^[footnote 3]
Aged 18 to 64 (including at risk, pregnant women, and 50 to 64 year olds cohort)	Offer QIVc or QIVr Or offer QIVe (if QIVc or QIVr are not available).
Aged 65 years and over ^[footnote 4]	Offer aQIV. Or offer QIVc or QIVr if aQIV is not available. It is recommended that aQIV is offered 'off-label' to those who become 65 before 31 March 2022.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan/national-flu-immunisation-programme-2021-to-2022-letter>

Uptake ambition

Eligible group	Uptake ambition
Age 65 years and over	At least 85% reflecting WHO target
Under 65 years at risk in. Pregnant women	At least 75% in all Clinical risk groups
Aged 50-64	At least 75%
Children	
Pre school aged 2-3	At least 70%
School aged	At least 70% across all eligible school years
All ages	
No group of community should have a vaccine uptake that is more than 5% lower than the national average	
Health and social care workers	
Both frontline health and front line social care workers	100% offer with an 85% ambition.

BOB planning

There is a system wide planning group that meets fortnightly to disseminate regional information, address any inconsistencies or highlight risk commonalities with the programme roll out.

Berkshire West

Berkshire West holds a weekly Vaccination Action Group where uptake, demographic data etc will be presented and discussed both in relation to Flu and Covid vaccination. Specific areas of risk are also highlighted to arrive at a combined pragmatic solution for the patient demographic.

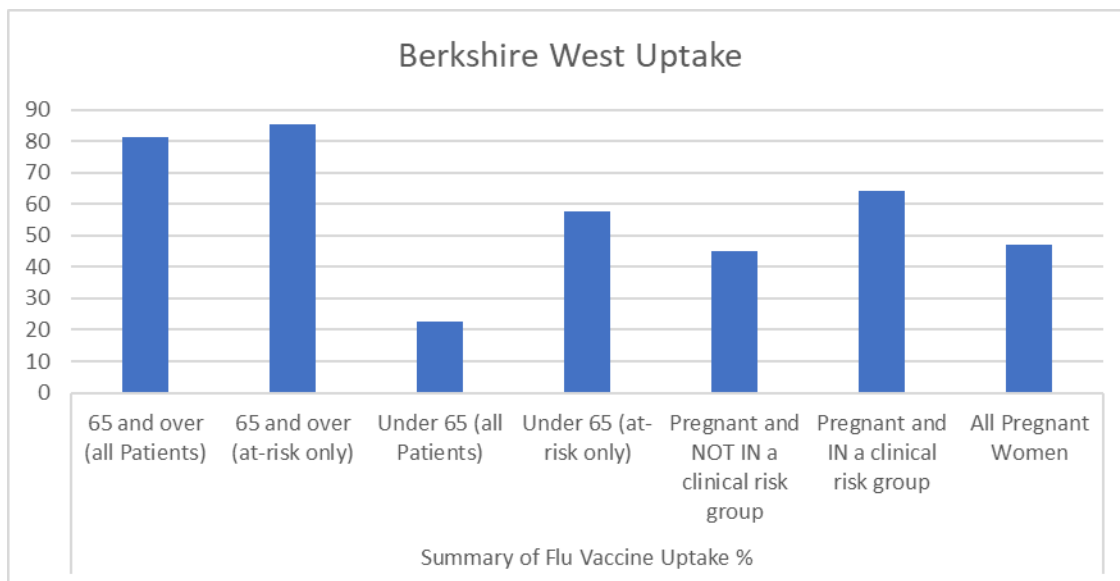
This is attended by all stakeholders inclusive of health, social and voluntary sector organisations.

Plans have been discussed with our provider organisations regarding staff, inpatient and outpatient vaccinations of those at-risk patients.

Uptake 2020-21 flu season- look back

The response summary to the 20-21 survey included 41 out of 44 practices with Berkshire West, therefore 93.2% of practices responded.

The graph below demonstrates the total percentage uptake in the categories highlighted. It can be noted that there was a significantly low uptake in the patients under 65 cohort



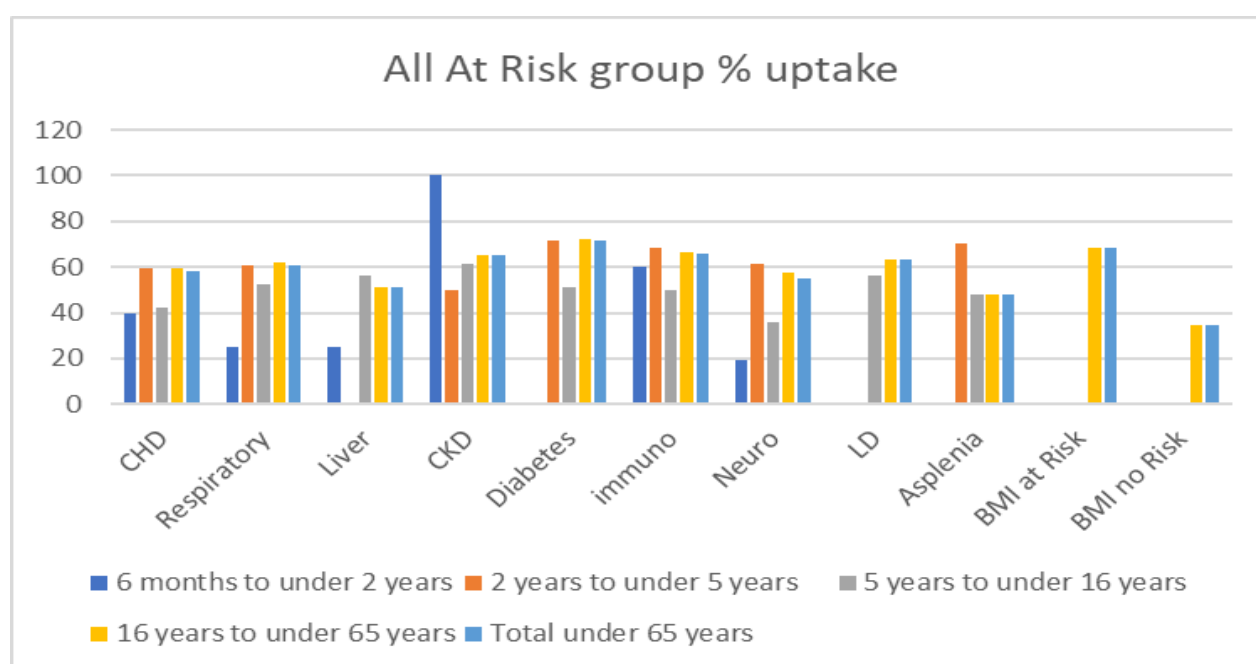
For further comparison, the below table highlights previous flu season uptake percentage

Berkshire West flu uptake rates %	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21
65+	73.6	74.8	81.2
U65 at risk	48.2	47.8	57.5
Pregnant women	48.4	51.1	46.7

			<i>*reporting issues</i>
2 year olds	51.6	50.5	64.5
3 year olds	55.6	48.8	64.7

The below chart highlights the specific at-risk groups and percentage uptake by age. 38 practices within Berkshire West provided the data for the summary.

The percentage uptake data is arrived at by the number of patients registered vs the number of patients vaccinated. Therefore, there may be instances within the data of a significantly high or low uptake depending on those numbers registered and vaccinated.



The below table show the uptake percentage by practice. It can be noted that two practices did not respond to the survey and therefore their data set is incomplete and not included for comparison.

The uptake ambitions were set at least 75% for all eligible groups with 100% offer for frontline health and social care workers.

It can be seen from the percentage uptake that there was good engagement of patients with the practices for both groups 65 and over and 65 at risk. However, there is still some work to do this season coming with the other cohorts.

Please can it also be noted that throughout the flu season there were discrepancies in the data relating to pregnant women, this is inclusive of accurate denominator, so should be taken with caution.

Org Name	Summary of Flu Vaccine Uptake %						
	65 and over (all Patients)	65 and over (at-risk only)	Under 65 (all Patients)	Under 65 (at-risk only)	Pregnant and NOT IN a clinical risk group	Pregnant and IN a clinical risk group	All Pregnant Women
TILEHURST SURGERY	85.9	89.9	28.7	58.8	34.1	84.6	38.6
LONDON STREET SURGERY	65.3	72.2	11.6	43.9	38.9	100.0	40.0
BALMORE PARK SURGERY	85.8	88.4	23.5	61.9	50.3	57.9	51.1
CHATHAM STREET SURGERY	70.1	73.1	17.6	49.6	44.7	33.3	44.0
MILMAN & KENNET SURGERY	72.1	78.1	16.0	53.6	39.8	46.4	40.6
EMMER GREEN SURGERY	83.9	87.7	29.1	60.9	52.7	76.9	55.3
LONG BARN LANE SURGERY	80.6	88.1	21.5	63.6	45.5	100.0	50.0
WESTWOOD ROAD SURGERY	82.7	86.0	23.0	58.0	60.5	16.7	54.5
WESTERN ELMS & CIRCUIT LANE SURGERIES	76.2	83.2	19.0	51.2	39.3	52.2	40.5
GROVELANDS MEDICAL CENTRE	83.9	87.4	25.9	65.8	41.1	68.2	43.8
ABBEY MEDICAL CENTRE	79.6	84.5	19.1	62.9	51.9		51.9
PEMBROKE SURGERY	79.9	84.8	21.5	63.5	25.0	100.0	30.8
UNIVERSITY MEDICAL GROUP	81.8	86.4	10.7	46.5	41.7	58.3	43.5
TILEHURST VILLAGE SURGERY	76.8	80.2	21.8	50.6	34.6	57.1	36.7
MELROSE SURGERY	75.3	80.8	18.0	53.0	52.2	53.3	52.3
READING WALK-IN HEALTH CENTRE	70.5	78.9	12.5	50.2	43.2	87.5	45.5

In conclusion, there is learning to be shared from the inequalities workstream that has been expedited due to the covid vaccination in order to reach those patients in the at risk groups to encourage attendance for vaccine.

Uptake Data from the 2021-22 flu campaign will be available from Mid October.