

Flu vaccine 2022-23 overview

Overview

As a result of non-pharmaceutical interventions in place for COVID-19 (such as mask-wearing, reduced social interactions and international travel) influenza activity levels were extremely low globally in 2020 to 2021 and at present continue to be low.

A late increase in activity cannot be ruled out this season. As social contact returns to pre-pandemic norms there is likely to be a resurgence in influenza activity in winter 2022 to 2023 to levels similar to or higher than before the pandemic.

The potential for co-circulation of influenza, COVID-19 and other respiratory viruses could add substantially to pressures in the NHS in 2022 to 2023, by addition, or by prolongation of the overall period for which respiratory viruses circulate in sequence.

Eligibility

- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2022
- all primary school aged children (from reception to Year 6)
- secondary school-aged children focusing on Years 7, 8 and 9 and any remaining vaccine will be offered to years 10 and 11, subject to vaccine availability
- those aged 50 to 64 years old not in clinical risk groups (including those who turn 50 by 31 March 2023)
- those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- those aged 65 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- frontline staff employed by the following types of social care providers without employer led occupational health schemes:
 - a registered residential care or nursing home
 - registered domiciliary care provider
 - a voluntary managed hospice provider
 - Direct Payment (personal budgets) or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan/statement-of-amendments-to-annual-flu-letter-21-july-2022>

Vaccines- Adults

Those aged 65 years and over	At-risk adults, including pregnant women, aged 18 to less than 65 years
Reimbursed vaccines	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> aQIV / QIVr QIVc (only where aQIV or QIVr is not available) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> QIVc / QIVr QIVe (only where QIVc or QIVr is not available)
Rationale and further information	
<p>There are 3 vaccines that JCVI advised are equally suitable for use in 2022 to 2023 as they provide the best protection.</p> <p>Adjuvanted quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (aQIV)*, High-dose quadrivalent inactivated influenza vaccine (QIV-HD) and Quadrivalent Recombinant Influenza Vaccine (QIVr). However, QIV-HD is not currently available in the UK market.</p> <p>The quadrivalent influenza cell-culture vaccine (QIVc) is considered an acceptable alternative and is suitable for use in this age group if aQIV, QIV-HD or QIVr are not available.</p>	<p>Evidence from recent influenza seasons indicate a clear additional benefit in the use of quadrivalent influenza vaccines in those less than 65 years of age in an at-risk group, compared with trivalent influenza vaccines. JCVI advises the use of Quadrivalent influenza cell-culture vaccine (QIVc) and Quadrivalent Recombinant Influenza Vaccine (QIVr).</p> <p>JCVI supports a preference for QIVc and QIVr over QIVe in this cohort, however the QIVe can be considered if other options are not available. NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSEI) advises that QIVc and QIVr should be prioritised for this group for the 2022 to 2023 seasonal influenza vaccination programme.</p>

* As in previous years, aQIV may be offered 'off-label' to those who become 65 years of age before 31 March 2023.

Vaccines- Children

Table 2. Summary table of which influenza vaccines to offer to children

Eligible group	Type of influenza vaccine
At risk children aged from 6 months to less than 2 years	Offer QIVe. For egg-allergic children under 2 years it is advised that QIVc is offered off-label.
At risk children aged 2 to under 18 years	Offer LAIV. If LAIV is contraindicated (or it is otherwise unsuitable) offer QIVc*
Aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2022	Offer LAIV
Primary school aged children (aged 4 to 10 on 31 August 2022)	If LAIV is contraindicated (or it is otherwise unsuitable) offer QIVc*

* QIVe is suitable to offer as a second option but has not been procured by UKHSA for this age group.

Uptake ambition

Over the last 2 seasons it has been reported as the most successful influenza vaccination programme ever, exceeding the WHO target of 75% for those aged 65 years and over for 2 years in a row and achieving higher uptake in most other cohorts compared to previous years.

General practices and school providers must demonstrate a 100% offer this season by ensuring all eligible patients are offered the opportunity to be vaccinated by active call and recall mechanisms, supplemented with opportunistic offers where pragmatic.

The aim of the influenza programme for 2022 to 2023 is to demonstrate a 100% offer and to achieve at least the uptake levels of 2021 to 2022 for each cohort, and ideally exceed them. Community pharmacy service providers do not have a fixed patient list from which to undertake call and recall activities.

Table 1. Influenza vaccine uptake (provisional data for 2021 to 2022 compared to end of season data for 2020 to 2021) [\[footnote 2\]](#)

Eligible cohort	2021 to 2022 vaccine uptake	2020 to 2021 vaccine uptake
Aged 65 years and over	82.30%	80.90%
In clinical risk group	52.90%	53.00%
Pregnant women	37.90%	43.60%
Aged 50 to 64 years not in risk group [footnote 3]	45.70%	35.20%
Aged 2 years old	48.70%	55.30%
Aged 3 years old	51.40%	58.00%
Frontline healthcare workers [footnote 4]	60.50%	76.80%
Eligible school-aged children [footnote 5]	51.50%	61.70%

We also need to support those who are living in the most deprived areas, from ethnic minorities and other underserved communities to have as high uptake as the population as a whole. High quality

dedicated and interculturally competent engagement with local communities, employers, faith and advocacy groups will therefore be required and are being undertaken.

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 monthly 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 and care home residents.

Reporting of uptake

ImmForm weekly data is expected to be available by 13th / 14th October 2022 for the week of Mon 3rd Oct to Sun 9th Oct (week 40). Centralised production the first round of weekly reports for this season by Wednesday 19th October.

Subsequent weekly and monthly reports should be available the day after publication, once automated routines have been tested and reviewed with the first iteration of live data.

Uptake 2021-22 flu season- look back

The table below compares Berkshire West performance in 2021/22 with that in the previous three years. It shows continued year-on-year growth amongst the over 65 age cohort. In the other cohorts, performance dropped in 2021/22 but this was against a very strong performance shown in 2020/21.

NHS Berkshire West % flu uptake	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	2021/22
65+	73.6	74.8	81.2	84.3%
U65 at risk	48.2	47.8	57.5	55.8%
Pregnant women	48.4	51.1	46.7	41.9%
2-year-olds	51.6	50.5	64.5	60.5%
3-year-olds	55.6	48.8	64.7	63.9%

The table below shows take up of the flu vaccine amongst the 65 and over age category in Reading, and compares this with performance in Berkshire West, BOB ICB and England.

	Flu (65+)
Reading eligible population	26,902
Reading take-up	21,348
% take -up	79.4%
Berkshire West % take-up	84.3%
BOB % take-up	85.0%
England % take-up	82.1%

The table below breaks down performance into smaller age cohorts amongst the eligible adult population. It should be noted that people aged 50-64 (without underlying health conditions) had not previously been eligible for the NHS flu vaccine.

Reading	Total Cohort Size	Flu take-up 21/22
Residential Care Home Patients 65+	529	86%
Age 80+	7,169	85%
Age 75-79	5,109	84%
Age 70-74 or Covid High Risk	9,966	68%
Age 65-69	6,855	70%
Age 16-64 with Underlying Health Conditions	29,860	43%
Age 60-64 with no UHC	5,317	48%
Age 55-59 with no UHC	7,458	40%
Age 50-54 with no UHC	9,126	32%

The table below shows performance amongst the 65 and over age category within Reading Primary Care Network (PCN) populations. It should be noted that the administration of the vaccines is undertaken by general practice and community pharmacy, not the PCNs.

PCN	Flu (65+)
Caversham	88%
Reading Central	73%
Reading University	83%
Reading West	79%
Tilehurst	79%
Whitley	73%