

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to our 21/22 Flu Bulletin from the East of England Screening and Immunisation Team. Flu season has started, and the first vaccines are currently being delivered.

Last year saw the roll out of the biggest NHS influenza vaccination programme ever, with the aim of offering protection to as many eligible people as possible during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. **We would like to extend a huge thank you to all those involved for your hard work during very challenging times which led to the best influenza vaccine uptake rates ever achieved.**

Flu season this year will again be a little different to previous years. In light of the risk of flu and COVID-19 co-circulating this winter, the national flu immunisation programme will be absolutely essential to protecting vulnerable people and supporting the resilience of the health and care system.

We want to help you increase the uptake of flu vaccinations within your pharmacy and support you during this time. Your flu vaccination campaign will help ensure the maximum number of patients are vaccinated and protected before the flu starts to circulate.

Community pharmacies offering a flu vaccination service for adults will be required to do so in accordance with the [Community Pharmacy Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Advanced service specification for 2021/22](#)

We hope you find this bulletin useful. If you have any questions, please contact:

Team	Email	Query type
Screening and Immunisation Teams	For East Anglia email: <a href="mailto:England.eaimms@nhs.net">England.eaimms@nhs.net</a> For Essex email: <a href="mailto:England.essexatimms@nhs.net">England.essexatimms@nhs.net</a> For Bedfordshire, Hertfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes email: <a href="mailto:England.immsqa@nhs.net">England.immsqa@nhs.net</a>	For any questions or suggestions for the bulletin  For any flu immunisation clinical query
East of England Contracting Team	<a href="mailto:england.pharmacyeast@nhs.net">england.pharmacyeast@nhs.net</a>	Commissioning and Contracting queries

Alternatively you may wish to contact your local LPC for support.

Best wishes,  
East of England Screening and Immunisation Team

NHS England and NHS Improvement



# 2021/22 Flu vaccination bulletin for Community Pharmacy

# Annual flu letter

Providers should focus in achieving maximum uptake of the flu vaccine in existing eligible groups especially the under 65y olds at-risk

The following groups will also be offered vaccination:

- ✓ Close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- ✓ all children aged 2 to 15 (but not 16 years or older) on 31 August 2021. Vaccine offered at school by the community and school aged immunisation provider
- ✓ Health and social care workers employed through Direct Payment and/or Personal Health Budgets
- ✓ The 50-64 year old age group

Pharmacies are to vaccinate those aged 18 and over ONLY. Whilst you can not offer the flu vaccine to children you may wish to promote it. Links to resources available on the last slide.

Providers are expected to ensure they have robust plans in place for tackling health inequalities for all underserved groups to ensure equality of access.

It is essential to increase flu vaccination levels for those who are living in the most deprived areas and from BAME communities.



Data source: Published Data

2020/21, month Feb-21 extract date (26/03/2021)	% Pracs Subm't'd	Aged 65 and over		*Under 65 at risk		Age 50 to 64 years		^Pregnant women		% Pracs Subm't'd	Aged 2		Aged 3	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		%	%	%	%
		20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20		20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20
Target uptake 75% Age 65 and over ambition 95%														
NHS EAST AND NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE CCG	96.2	83.0	73.4	53.8	40.9	46.1		49.7	39.5	98.1	61.2	51.3	63.2	49.8
NHS HERTS VALLEYS CCG	92.7	81.8	74.8	58.7	45.8	47.7		48.1	46.3	83.6	64.3	50.2	66.0	49.0
NHS WEST ESSEX CCG	96.7	79.0	69.0	49.0	41.1	41.6		39.4	37.0	93.3	52.1	45.8	56.6	46.2
NHS IPSWICH AND EAST SUFFOLK CCG	100.0	85.4	75.2	58.2	45.4	51.8		43.6	47.6	100.0	66.3	57.1	69.3	56.2
NHS WEST SUFFOLK CCG	100.0	83.2	73.1	57.0	45.6	45.6		52.4	48.0	95.8	67.9	57.3	70.1	54.9
NHS NORTH EAST ESSEX CCG	96.9	79.8	70.3	51.5	41.9	42.0		39.0	38.6	96.9	56.1	47.0	60.5	44.6
NHS NORFOLK & WAVENEY CCG	96.2	82.7	72.3	56.1	44.5	49.0		47.9	43.4	97.1	61.2	54.3	65.2	54.2
NHS MID ESSEX CCG	95.0	81.4	69.6	52.2	39.1	41.6		46.5	35.2	97.5	59.4	50.3	63.8	50.9
NHS THURROCK CCG	100.0	77.0	67.1	44.8	38.8	37.0		32.4	33.1	100.0	46.1	43.6	48.4	42.5
NHS BASILDON AND BRENTWOOD CCG	100.0	79.7	69.4	47.8	38.4	38.5		38.4	33.5	100.0	49.9	45.0	55.8	45.1
NHS CASTLE POINT AND ROCHFORD CCG	91.3	79.9	70.1	50.8	40.6	40.4		49.5	44.9	100.0	56.3	51.2	60.6	50.9
NHS SOUTHEND CCG	92.3	75.6	65.6	44.1	37.7	34.8		40.9	39.3	100.0	50.2	42.4	53.3	41.9

2020/21, month Feb-21 extract date (26/03/2021)	% Pracs Subm't'd	Aged 65 and over		Under 65 at risk		Age 50 to 64 years		Pregnant women		% Pracs Subm't'd	Aged 2		Aged 3	
		%	%	%	%	%	%	%	%		%	%	%	%
		20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20		20/21	19/20	20/21	19/20
Target uptake 75%														
BEDFORDSHIRE, LUTON AND MILTON KEYNES STP	97.9	81.2	71.2	51.3	42.7	45.3		46.1	43.4	100.0	57.0	42.9	60.2	42.0
CAMBRIDGESHIRE AND PETERBOROUGH STP	95.3	82.8	73.1	53.4	42.4	47.2		42.5	42.2	100.0	59.6	47.6	61.5	48.3
HERTFORDSHIRE AND WEST ESSEX STP	94.9	81.7	73.0	54.8	42.9	45.9		47.0	41.9	91.2	60.5	49.7	62.8	48.7
MID AND SOUTH ESSEX STP	96.0	79.4	68.8	48.5	38.9	39.1		41.3	36.2	99.3	53.0	46.7	57.1	46.6
NORFOLK AND WAVENEY HEALTH AND CARE PARTNERSHIP STP	96.2	82.7	72.3	56.1	44.3	49.0		47.9	41.9	97.1	61.2	54.0	65.2	53.9
SUFFOLK AND NORTH EAST ESSEX STP	98.9	82.9	73.0	55.7	44.3	47.0		44.2	44.5	97.9	63.0	53.5	66.3	51.9

Last flu season  
overall uptake  
by CCG (20/21)



# Last flu season 20/21 vs 19/20 Pharmacy Flu Achievements

Pharmacies in East of England have made a massive contribution last year to delivering the most successful flu season to date.

During the 20/21 flu season compared to 19/20 season Pharmacies in EoE have delivered approximately:

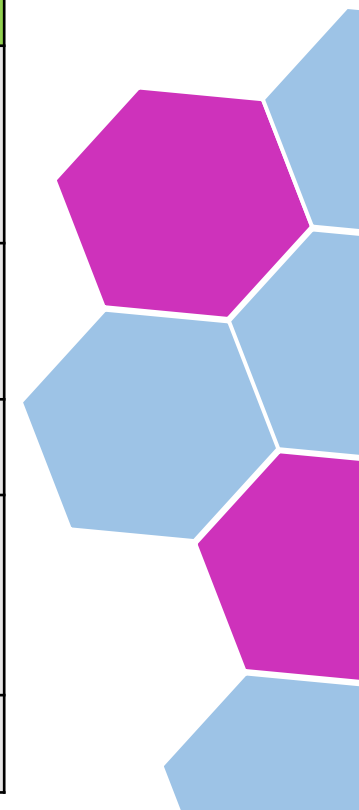
- 42% more over-65y olds vaccinated
- 27% more under-65y olds at risk vaccinated
- 32% more health and social care workers
- 18% less pregnant women

Overall approximately 37% more flu vaccines have been given in pharmacies during the 20/21 flu season compared to 19/20.

Although a massive improvement from the previous year, uptake for at-risk under-65-year olds remains low. We encourage you to allocate resources to **identify, promote and prioritise** individuals under 65 years old at-risk and pregnant women.

# Vaccine and Uptake Ambitions

Eligible groups	Uptake ambition	Vaccines
<b>Routine programme</b>		
Aged 65 years and over	At least 85%	Egg grown quadrivalent Influenza vaccine (aQIV)  Cell-based quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVc) or Recombinant quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVr) (if aQIV is not available)
At risk adults (aged 18 to 64), including pregnant women and 50 to 64 year old cohort	At least 75%	Cell-based quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVc) or Recombinant quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVr)  Egg-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVe) (as an alternative to QIVc or QIVr)
<b>Children's programme</b>		
At risk children aged from 6 months to less than 2 years	At least 75%	Egg-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVe)  LAIV and QIVc are not licenced for children under 2 years of age.
At risk children aged 2 to under 18 years	At least 75%	Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) unless contraindicated or as an alternative to LAIV where parents object to porcine gelatine, then offer QIVc aged 2+.
Preschool children aged 2 & 3 years vaccinated in GP Practices	At least 70%	Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)
School aged children (vaccinated in school) including year 7-11 in secondary school		Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) unless contraindicated or as an alternative to LAIV where parents object to porcine gelatine, then offer QIVc aged 2+.
Frontline health and social care workers	100% offered with 85% ambition	



# Pharmacy flu Vaccination Programme - PharmOutcomes Notifications

As you will be aware, **flu vaccination data is extracted from the GP practices system** making vaccination recording crucial for NHS immunisations delivered in other healthcare settings. This is particularly important during the flu season where pharmacies support with the delivery of the flu immunisation programme.

NHSEI East of England is again this year using the PharmOutcomes system to record Flu vaccinations in community pharmacy settings. The system this year will offer contractors access to the following functionality:

1. **The use of pre-consult**. Introduced last year, this app will support entry of patient information ahead of the vaccine appointment. Please follow the link to access the guidance: <https://outcomes4health.org/o4h/help/home?flu>
2. **A redesigned Flu template**. This reflects the vaccines recommended for this seasons' campaign and has also been structured to allow for staged service delivery following requests from providers last year. This means Pharmacy teams can complete the initial screening front of house if required and pass the information through to the pharmacist to complete the vaccination stage of the service after review of the screening questions. This will cut down contact times for all.
3. **GP Notification via MESH**. The post event message this year will send on saving the flu record to the patients GP practice via the Message Exchange For Social Care and Health (MESH). This is a much more efficient way to transfer patient information to GP Practice.
4. **Direct link to MYS for claim management**. When records are saved for the flu record, a claim is automatically sent to the NHS BSA.

**We encourage you to continue building good working relations with the GP practices and ensure that all notifications for NHS vaccinations given in pharmacies make their way into the GP practice system.**

The Screening and Immunisation teams in East of England have worked with providers to ensure GP practices have signed up to receive notifications on PharmOutcomes. Your support in encouraging that message is greatly appreciated.

If you have any questions or require more information about PharmOutcomes please contact:  
[helpdesk@phpartnership.com](mailto:helpdesk@phpartnership.com)





# Flu vaccines 2021/22

## Flu vaccines 2021 to 2022 season

6 months to under 2 years	2 years to less than 18 years <sup>(ii)</sup>	2 years to less than 18 years <sup>(ii)</sup>	18 years to 64 years	65 years and over
<b>In a clinical risk group</b> QIVe (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine, egg grown) <sup>(i)</sup>	<b>Children and young people with no contraindications to LAIV</b> Quadrivalent LAIV (Live attenuated influenza vaccine, nasal spray suspension) <sup>(ii)</sup>	<b>Children and young people if LAIV contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable<sup>(iii)</sup></b> QIVc (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine, cell-grown)	<b>QIVc</b> (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine, cell-grown) <b>QIVr</b> (Recombinant quadrivalent influenza vaccine) <b>or QIVe</b> (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine, egg grown) if QIVc or QIVr not available	<b>aQIV</b> (Adjuvanted quadrivalent influenza vaccine) <sup>(iv)</sup> <b>or QIVc</b> (Quadrivalent influenza vaccine, cell-grown) if aQIV not available <b>or QIVr</b> (Recombinant quadrivalent influenza vaccine) if aQIV not available
1 <sup>(i)</sup> 3	2 <sup>(ii)</sup>	4 <sup>(i)</sup>	4 5 or 1 3	6 or 4 5

**Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine**  
Sanofi Pasteur

QIVe

1

licensed from 6 months of age

**Fluenz\* Tetra**  
AstraZeneca

LAIV

2

licensed from 2 years to less than 18 years of age

**Influvac sub-unit Tetra**  
Viatris (formerly Mylan)

QIVe

3

licensed from 6 months of age

**Flucelvac Tetra**  
Seqirus

QIVc

4

licensed from 2 years of age

**Supemtek**  
Sanofi Pasteur

QIVr

5

licensed from 18 years of age

**Flud Tetra**  
Seqirus

aQIV

6

licensed from 65 years of age

- Eligible groups**
- aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2021
  - school aged children from Reception Year up to Year 11
  - those aged 6 months to under 50 years in clinical risk groups
  - pregnant women
  - those aged 50 years and over<sup>(v)</sup>
  - those in long-stay residential care homes
  - carers
  - close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
  - frontline health and social care staff
- See Green Book Influenza Chapter 19 for full details on eligible groups

- Resources**
- Annual flu programme**  
[www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme](http://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme)
- Green Book Influenza Chapter 19**  
[www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19)
- <sup>(i)</sup> Vaccines for eligible children and young people (aged 2-18 years of age) are available from their GP.  
<sup>(ii)</sup> LAIV is only available for children in clinical risk groups.  
<sup>(iii)</sup> If the parent of an eligible child declines LAIV because of a possible gelatine contraindication, they can request a non-live injectable vaccine. QIVc is available to order from their GP for these children.  
<sup>(iv)</sup> Although aQIV is not licensed for those less than 65 years of age, it is recommended that those who will become 65 years of age before 31 March 2022 can be offered the vaccine 'off-label'.  
<sup>(v)</sup> Including those becoming 50 years of age by 31st August 2022.

**Flu i mmunisation**  
Helping to protect people, every winter

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Public Health England, reference number: D16\_2021\_0518/0221



# Flu vaccine suppliers

Supplier	Name of product	Vaccine type	Age indications	Ovalbumin content micrograms/dose	Contact details
AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Fluenz® Tetra	Quadrivalent LAIV (live attenuated influenza vaccine) supplied as nasal spray suspension	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	Less than 0.024 micrograms per 0.2 ml dose	0845 139 0000
MASTA	Quadrivalent Influenza vaccine	QIVe (standard egg-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine), split virion, inactivated	From 6 months	Equal to or less than 0.05 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0113 238 7552
Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines	Quadrivalent Influenza vaccine	QIVe (standard egg-grown quadrivalent Influenza vaccine), split virion, inactivated	From 6 months	Equal to or less than 0.05 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0800 854 430
Viatrix (formerly Mylan)	Quadrivalent Influvac® sub-unit Tetra ▼	QIVe (standard egg-grown quadrivalent Influenza vaccine), surface antigen, inactivated	From 6 months	Equal to or less than 0.1 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0800 358 7468
Seqirus UK Ltd	Flucelvax® Tetra ▼	QIVc (cell-grown quadrivalent Influenza vaccine), surface antigen, inactivated	From 2 years	Egg-free	08457 451 500
Sanofi Pasteur Vaccines	Supemtek ▼	QIVr (quadrivalent Influenza vaccine (recombinant, prepared in cell culture))	From 18 years	Egg-free	0800 854 430
Seqirus UK Ltd	Fluad Tetra ▼	aQIV (egg-grown quadrivalent Influenza vaccine), surface antigen, inactivated, adjuvanted with MF59C.1	From 65 years	Equal to or less than 1 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	08457 451 500





# Infection prevention and control guidance

## COVID-19 Infection prevention and control recommendations

*“Health and care settings will continue to maintain appropriate infection prevention and control processes as necessary and this will be continually reviewed. Guidance will be updated based on the latest clinical evidence.”*

Until further notice, the [existing COVID-19 IPC guidance](#) continues to apply in healthcare settings and all primary care contractors should continue to follow this guidance. The IPC guidance states:

*“Patients in all care areas should still be encouraged and supported to wear a face mask, providing it is tolerated and is not detrimental to their medical or care needs”.*

# ‘Boost Your Immunity This Winter’ marketing and communications campaign

As part of the joint government campaign, **Boost Your Immunity This Winter**, NHSEI do a lot of work around flu vaccinations and targeting the clinical risk groups. Specific marketing and advertising is aimed at the clinical risk groups but we are always looking for new ways to communicate with the community to encourage flu vaccine uptake.

A full range of campaign resources will be made available during the month of September. Thank you for your ongoing support.



[PHE Boost Your Immunity This Winter Webinar/Posters/Leaflets](#)



# FAQs

**Q. If an individual has had confirmed influenza recently and they are in an at risk group should they still have the vaccine?**

Anyone eligible to receive the vaccine should still have it even if they have had confirmed influenza, either recently or in the past.

**Q. At what stage of pregnancy should pregnant women be offered the flu vaccine?**

**All pregnant women** should be offered an inactivated influenza vaccine regardless of their stage of pregnancy.

**Q. Are all people with asthma eligible for an NHS flu vaccination under the national flu Vaccination Enhanced Service?**

**Only** people that have asthma that requires continuous or repeated use of inhaled or systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission are eligible for the flu vaccine.

**Q. Is a patient with epilepsy eligible for an NHS flu vaccination under the national flu Vaccination Service?**

Epilepsy is not considered a high-risk group for flu; therefore, patients with epilepsy are not entitled to an NHS flu vaccination unless they fall into another eligible group.

**Q. Can the flu vaccine be given to women who are breastfeeding?**

The flu vaccine can be given to breastfeeding women; however, they are not eligible for an NHS vaccine unless they are in a clinical risk group.



# Useful links for Pharmacy Staff

[National flu  
programme  
2021/22 letter](#)

[Annual flu  
programme](#)

[Immform - data  
collection  
guidance](#)

[Flu PGD](#)

[NHSE advanced  
service spec](#)

[Vaccine update](#)

[Latest coverage  
data](#)

[NICE guidelines  
on increasing flu  
uptake](#)

[Influenza - Green  
Book](#)

