

Notes on flu plans 2018/19 for Health Scrutiny

Achieving a good uptake of flu vaccination is an important part of keeping people healthy in the winter, and reducing hospital stays. This requires firstly:

- actions to vaccinate our most vulnerable populations (young children; people with long term health conditions; and people aged 65 and over),
- actions to increase vaccination uptake among key groups of staff, in order both to keep them healthy and to prevent them spreading flu to higher risk people.

The main point for members of Health Scrutiny to note is that the process for flu vaccination is changing this year, with a new (adjuvanted trivalent) vaccine being offered to people aged over 65. This is expected to offer better protection to this group. The previous (quadrivalent) vaccine will continue to be offered to the remaining groups as the evidence is that it gives good protection for the younger age groups,

The supply of the adjuvanted trivalent vaccine is limited and practices and pharmacies had to make their orders for this in the summer. The process for this has been problematic nationally, but in Trafford we are expecting to have just enough vaccine to cover our population, with only one practice failing to place an order successfully. By working with local pharmacies, this practice's patients should be able to access the vaccine.

The trivalent vaccine will be distributed in 3 batches, with 40% available by October, 20% by November and the final 40% by December. Flu does not normally start circulating before this point so there should be time for everyone to be vaccinated. Priority will be given to people over 75, and care home residents, and these people should be vaccinated in October. **Healthy people aged 65-74 may need to wait until November for vaccination; people aged over 65 should be discouraged from asking for the quadrivalent vaccine and instead wait until they are called for the trivalent, as stocks become available, because it is significantly more effective.** This marks a significant change in process from previous years, and we will be monitoring the situation carefully regarding uptake. We are aware that some patients will not be happy with this situation but it is important that the most vulnerable people are offered the protection first. This approach is in line with national guidance.

The process for immunising children remains as in previous years, with the youngest children (aged 2-3) being vaccinated by the GP, and children in reception to year 5 being offered vaccination at school.

We need to continue to encourage health and care staff to take up the offer of vaccination. Anyone with direct patient contact in health and social care (including care home and home care staff) can receive free vaccination. Sessions are being arranged for Pennine Care staff, and home care/care home staff can attend either their GP or a pharmacy (see Appendix below)

In Trafford, we have in the past always had good uptake of vaccination among our older people, we have done less well in people with long term conditions and in our

staff. **We need to continue to promote the benefits of vaccination to all eligible individuals.**

Eleanor Roaf
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Appendix Process for home care/care home staff

NHSE GM have identified funding to provide a free vaccine for all care home/home care workers. To get the vaccine they can go to their GP or pharmacy.

It is hoped that as many GP Practices as possible will sign up. However, if not, then the social care workers registered with a non-participating Practice should be signposted to a Pharmacy/Chemist that is offering flu vaccinations.

All Pharmacies offering flu vaccination are automatically able to give this if they are signed up to give flu vaccination programme.

The social care worker would need to bring ID as proof of employment to Pharmacy in the same way that they would if attending GP surgery. 'ID' can be an ID badge/letter of confirmation from employer or a pay slip, just as long as it shows proof of employer/job title. (Can be paid or non-paid if they can show ID)