

GP/HSCP briefing

The following should be shared with GPs and other HSCP staff as required.

Flu Vaccination Programme 2020

Further to the information which has been previously shared and following feedback from GPs and community healthcare professionals, the following information aims to give guidance concerning how to manage requests for flu vaccinations from members of the public. This data has been grouped by age, health condition and/or personal living arrangements.

If you require any further information or have a question about a specific case which cannot be included under any of the categories below, please contact your HSCP in the first instance.

HSCP flu clinics will commence week beginning Monday 28 September.

Please note, there will be no HSCP drop in sessions and patients should not turn up without an appointment as the number of people at each clinic needs to be managed to ensure physical distancing. Please encourage patients to take up the appointments they are offered wherever possible as there will be limited capacity to rearrange appointments.

Cohorts by age

GPs will not be delivering any childhood (under 18s) flu vaccinations

Child aged 6 months to 2 years with a health condition

Children in at risk cohorts will be identified and the local Pre-School Immunisation Team will contact the parent/guardian with an allocated appointment for their child. The team are currently appointing all identified children to routine clinics as a priority. If the practice is aware of additional children or parents are in touch, contact the childhood flu line 0141 201 4190 or email child.flu@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Child aged 2 to 5 (not yet at school)

All parents/carers of 2-5 year olds will receive a letter with an allocated appointment in the next 8-10 weeks. Parents / carers who need to rearrange their child's appointment should call 0141 201 4190.

Primary school aged children

All primary school aged children will have received a consent pack to take home when schools returned in August and parents/carers are asked to complete and return completed consent forms to school within seven days. Flu immunisation sessions will be delivered in school from the beginning of October until mid-December. If a child misses their flu immunisation at school, for whatever reason, a flyer will be sent home with information about how the parent / guardian can arrange an appointment for their immunisation.

For all children in the above three groups (aged from six months to two years old with a health condition and children aged from two up to the end of primary school), we are asking parents/guardians to make every effort to attend their allocated appointment so that we can do everything possible to help maintain physical distancing at clinics and ensure that all children can be vaccinated ahead of this year's flu season.

Enquiries about vaccinations for school age children can be directed to the Schools by area via email or by telephoning 0141-532-8768:

South Glasgow/East Renfrewshire - SchoolImmunisationTeam.SouthGlasEastRen@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

Renfrewshire/Inverclyde - SchoolImmunisationTeam.RenInv@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

North West/West Dunbartonshire - SchoolImmunisationTeam.NorthWestWestDun@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

North East/East Dunbartonshire - Schoolimmunisationteam.northeasteastdun@ggc.scot.nhs.uk

We are also sharing a clear message that GP practices will not be able to arrange appointments for their child, so if an appointment needs to be rearranged, the parent / guardian should call 0141 201 4190.

Request for nasal vaccinations

For children who need an injectable vaccination instead of nasal because of religious beliefs, from a school perspective these children are identified through the screening consent form process. The parents will be contacted to discuss the option for nasal due to effectiveness and to explain the manufacturing process around gelatine, however, should the parents opt for injection, this will be delivered in school. For 2-5 year olds, this will be discussed with the parents at clinics and a decision made.

For 12-17 year olds at risk, this cohort need to opt-in so this will be discussed when making the appointment.

Children in a high risk category

There will not be any information required from GP practices to identify pre-school age children who are in the high risk category (i.e. Cystic Fibrosis).

Children who are aged 2-5 years old will be scheduled routinely, whether they are high risk or not.

A list of infants aged 6 months to 2 years with at risk conditions is being prepared by the Child Health SIRS team. All children will then be called to routine clinics from last week in September.

12 to 17 years old with a health condition, young carers and household contacts of those who are shielding.

12 to 17 year olds in these categories (or their parent/carer) should telephone 0141 532 8768 from 23rd September onwards to make an appointment for their flu vaccination. Individuals will be identified from national systems and receive a letter advising them to make an appointment; there will also be the ability to self declare.

18-64 year old with a health condition

Individuals in this group eligible for flu vaccination will be contacted by their GP practice or the Health Board with appointment information depending on local arrangements.

Pregnant women

All pregnant women will be offered flu from maternity services. If you have a patient who is pregnant, please direct them to their midwife for more information about getting a flu vaccination.

65 years old and over (by 31 March 2021). All 65+ will receive a letter with an allocated appointment. Patients who need to rearrange, or who have not received an appointment by the end of October, can contact 0141 201 4180.

Housebound

If you have identified a patient who is permanently housebound they do not need to attend their allocated appointment. We are asking that individuals telephone 0141 201 4180 to advise that they will not be attending.

55 - 65 year old or over (by 31st March 2021)

This group will receive information about how they will receive their vaccination within the next 8-10 weeks.

We are asking individuals to please make every effort to attend their allocated appointment so that we can do everything possible to help maintain physical distancing at clinics and ensure that all can be vaccinated ahead of this year's flu season.

There will be no drop-in clinics as we need to manage the number of people at each clinic to ensure physical distancing. We are asking members of the public not to contact their GP practice.

Unpaid carers and those living with people shielding

Those aged 18-64 should make an appointment with one of the participating Community Pharmacies. Details are on NHS Inform (see links below).

There may be patients who fall into more than one eligible category or who are also offered vaccination through their occupation; patients should be advised only to receive one vaccination.

Please note that we will be issuing general communications materials to the public regarding the way in which they should expect to receive their appointments and subsequent vaccinations. Therefore you may also direct any requests for information to the following social media channels and NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde's website.

Useful links

<https://www.nhsggc.org.uk/your-health/healthy-living/seasonal-flu/>

<https://twitter.com/NHSGGC>

<https://www.facebook.com/nhsggc/>

www.nhsinform.scot/flu

Patients resident in another Health Board area

Some patients may be registered with an NHSGGC practice but resident in another Health Board area. Arrangements for flu vaccination delivery may differ between Health Boards, depending on local circumstances. We are working with other Boards to identify these patients and ensure that they are offered an appointment.

Information on NHS Inform is based on where people live, so in some circumstances patients may be directed to contact their GP practice when that is not the agreement for NHSGGC. In those cases, please advise patients that they will receive an appointment via letter or direct them to the call centre number 0141 201 4180 if they have not received this by the end of October.

In some cases, patients may receive two appointments (e.g from their practice, and from another health board). They should only attend one, and cancel the other.

Reporting/Recording

Where patients receive their flu vaccination outwith the GP practice, information will be collated after each clinic and provided back to practices; practices are asked to make sure this is updated in the patient record as soon as possible.

Vaccine Ordering

To minimise vaccine wastage through over supply, practices should only order what they need for planned activity. This also reduces the risk of wastage should there be a cold chain incident/fridge failure.

QIVc – practice allocations are based on last year's uptake figures. In recognition of the ambition to increase uptake to 75% for the 18-64 at risk cohort, and that some practices have reviewed their eligible patient cohorts, practices can order supply that equates to 75% of their total eligible cohort. This does not need to be requested in one order, as additional orders can be made.

In the event that a practice exceeds the 75% target, an additional request can be made. However, the majority of stock is already allocated and there is already pressure on the buffer stock National Procurement hold.

aTIV – the majority of this age cohort are being managed via HSCP Community Clinics. Practices should only order aTIV for housebound, care or nursing home patients they are responsible for vaccinating.

A small supply – 1 box of 10 doses – can be ordered to facilitate opportunistic vaccination of older, eligible adults.

QIVe – practices should not order this vaccine and National Procurement will not authorise release.

All vaccine will be delivered via Movianto and it is important that you check your order for errors and submit by the published cut-off dates.