

Seasonal Flu Update 2021-22

Please find below issues which have occurred within the last few months which practices may wish to reference when implementing the flu programme. You may wish to use this as an addendum to the original flu guide. This has purposely been written as a simple 'at a glance' update to quickly inform practices given the workload pressures everyone is working under.

- Practices are encouraged to promote and offer flu through to 31st March and to be reminded that this is a requirement within the [Enhanced Service Specification](#) (see pg. 6)
- Covid Vaccination sites, who are not jointly delivering seasonal flu, are encouraged to promote and signpost seasonal flu where appropriate to do so.
- Pharmacists currently undertaking antibiotic audits for practices are also identifying patients who are eligible for seasonal flu and are either vaccinating where they can book them in or signposting back to general practice where patients have presented, and they have not already received their flu vaccination.
- There appears to be good uptake in most areas with immunosuppressed patients but the household contacts of the immunocompromised are often significantly lower. Practices should, where possible, check that this cohort are approached and offered vaccinations.
- Frontline¹ staff not registered with the practice may now be vaccinated, see [guidance letter](#).
- It is important that patients who decline a seasonal flu vaccination, are appropriately coded. The significance of this is that those numbers will then affect the denominator when calculating achievement towards target, the impact of which will be to increase the achievement rate. Achievements are regularly reviewed both at practice, PCN and CCG level, so any small adjustment will often help.

Investment and Impact Fund (IIF)

The following changes will apply to IIF for 2021/22, implemented via the [Temporary GP contract changes to support COVID-19 vaccination programme](#)². The three flu immunisation indicators, and the appointment categorisation indicator (as the work is completed), will continue to operate based on PCN performance in 2021/22 (see Appendix 3)

¹ [B0993-i-letter-vaccination-of-frontline-pc-health-care-workers-and-available-funding.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

² [C1475 Letter-about-temporary-GP-contract-changes-to-support-COVID-19-vaccination-programme.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

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Seasonal Flu Update 2022-23

JCVI Guidance

The seasonal flu [JCVI Statement on Influenza Vaccines 2022-23.pdf | Powered by Box](#) was released in September 2021. No central guidance has been released relating to the 2022-23 recommended vaccines yet; when it is, it is usually published here [National flu immunisation programme plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

50-<64 cohort

JCVI guidance does not include the expanded influenza vaccination programme, i.e., those aged 50-64 (not otherwise at-risk), this is a separate decision made by NHSE. However, in the absence of any national guidance and given this is the second year where this cohort has been included, we suspect practices would be well advised to at least secure a similar amount of vaccine for the 2022/23 year as they did in the 2021/22 year.