

Flu bulletin 2026/27

For GPs, PCNs and CPs

East of England Screening and Immunisation Team

Last updated: 29 September 2026



Introduction

Welcome to our 26/27 flu bulletin from the NHS East of England Screening and Immunisation Team. Our aim is to help you increase the uptake of flu vaccinations within your practice, by providing key information and resources.

This year, the flu vaccination campaign is kicking off at the start of September, with [the first month focussing on pregnant women, at-risk children aged 6 months to 18 years, children aged 2 and 3 and school-aged children](#), with other cohorts following in October. This timing is based on the evidence and advice from JCVI, ensuring that adult patients are protected right across the winter months, covering the usual peak of flu in January.

The aim of the influenza programme for 2026 to 2027 is for all [eligible groups](#) to have been offered a vaccine, and providers should aim to equal or exceed last season’s (2025 to 2026) uptake particularly in clinical risk groups, children aged 2 and 3 years old, and pregnant women. School-aged children will be vaccinated through the Community and School-Age Immunisations Service.

Practices are expected to invite children in clinical risk groups aged 6 months to 18 years, infants aged 2 and 3 and pregnant women in September. Uptake in children in risk groups aged 6 months to 2 years is particularly low, so do ensure you are reaching out to this group. In a change this year, 2 and 3 year old catch-up can be offered in Community Pharmacies from October.

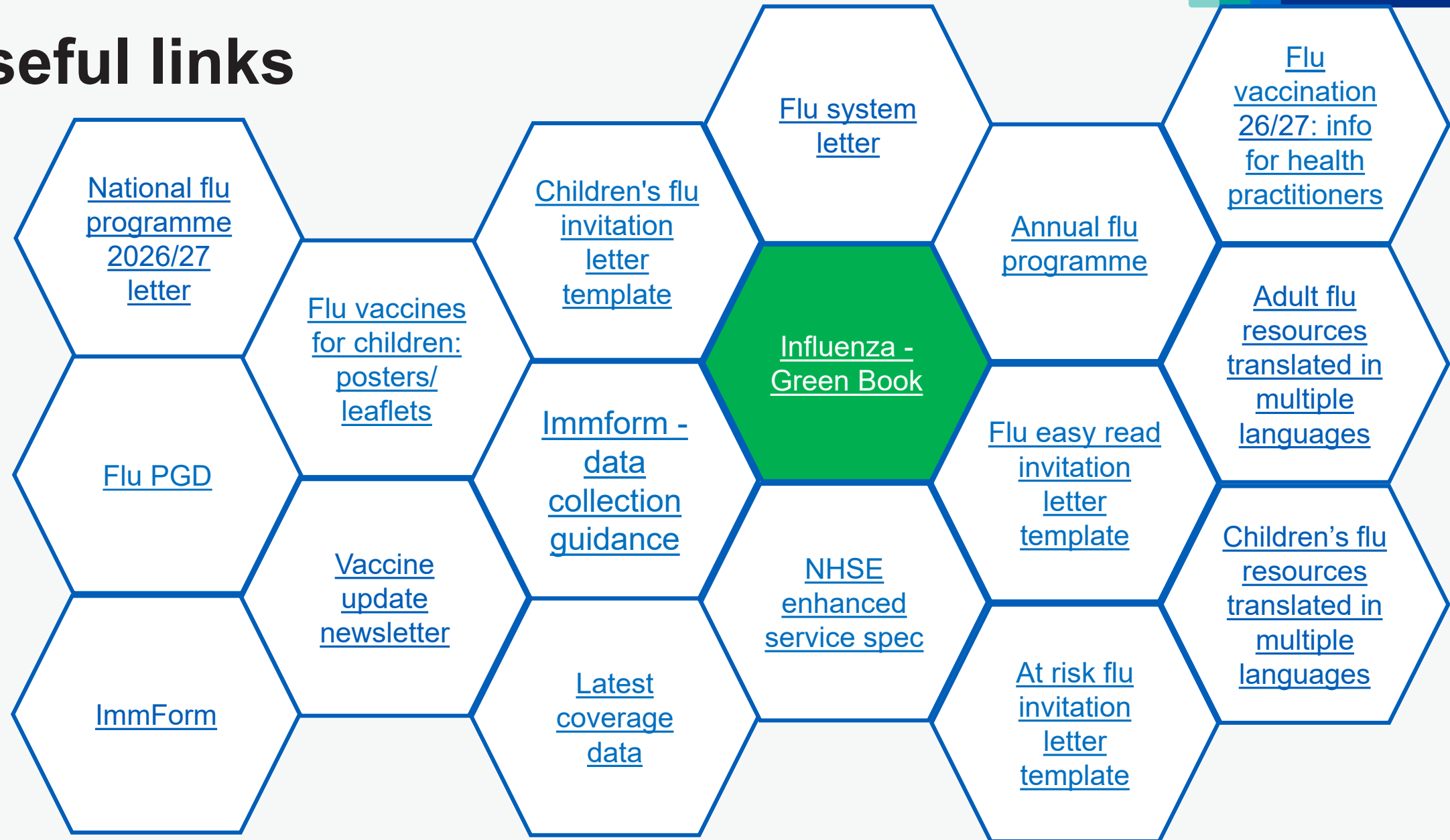
Practices should be reviewing lists of at-risk patients now ready to offer as soon as the season starts. Our advice is to co-administer vaccines where possible, in line with the latest guidance. And don’t forget that all staff at your practice are also eligible for the flu vaccine.

If you have any questions, the team can be contacted throughout the season at the following address:

england.eoeimms@nhs.net

Best wishes,
East of England Screening and Immunisation Team, NHS England

Useful links



Timing of flu, COVID and RSV programmes 2026/27

	From 1 September 2026	From 1 October 2026
Flu	- Pregnant women - All children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2026 - Primary school aged children (Reception to Year 6) - Secondary school aged children (Year 7 to Year 11) - All children in clinical risk groups aged from 6 months to less than 18 years	- everyone aged 65 years and over - all adults in clinical risk groups, from age 18 to under 65 - residents of long-stay residential care homes - carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person - close contacts of people who are immunocompromised - rough sleepers and those using homeless hostels or night shelters aged 16 years and over - frontline social care workers without access to an employer-led occupational health scheme, including those working in: - registered residential care or nursing homes - domiciliary care - voluntary managed hospices - personal assistants employed through direct payments or personal health budgets
Covid-19		- Confirmation of AW 2026/27 programme details - JCVI advises that vaccination should be offered to the following groups in autumn 2026 and spring 2027: - adults aged 75 years and over - residents in a care home for older adults - individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed (as defined in the 'immunosuppression' sections of tables 3 or 4 in the COVID-19 chapter of the green book)
RSV		Those aged 75 to 79 Those aged 80 years (or those who turn 80) are eligible until 31st August 2026. Practices should use a Patient Specific Direction (PSD) until a revised Patient Group Direction (PGD) is issued. Pregnant women from 28 weeks This is a year-round programme

Flu vaccines for different groups 2026-27

Eligible groups	Vaccines
65 years and over	aIV (adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine) IIV-HD (high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine) IIVr (recombinant inactivated influenza vaccine) IIVc (cell-cultured) is equivalent to aIV (adjuvanted), IIV-HD (high-dose) and IIVr (recombinant) or IIVc (cell-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine) if aIV, IIV-HD and IIVr not available JCVI advises against the use of standard egg-cultured influenza vaccines in older adults due to consistently lower effectiveness. Cell-culture (IIVc) only if aIV, IIV-HD and IIVr not available. Evidence may be requested by commissioner before reimbursement agreed
Clinical risk group aged 18 to 64 - including pregnant women and those in long-stay residential care homes, carers and close contacts of immunocompromised individuals	cell-culture (IIVc) or recombinant (IIVr) or adjuvanted (aIV) (if aged 50 years and above) or high dose (IIV-HD) (if aged 60 years and above) in those aged 50 years to 59 years in clinical risk groups, IIV-HD can be used off-label IIVe should only be offered in circumstances where the preferred first line influenza vaccines are not available.
Clinical risk group children aged 6 months to 2 years	cell-culture (IIVc) IIVe should only be offered in circumstances where the preferred first line influenza vaccines are not available.
Clinical risk group or eligible year group children aged 2 to 18	Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) If LAIV contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable offer the IIVc. The egg-culture (IIVe) can also be considered only when every attempt to use IIVc has been exhausted.
Frontline social care staff	Frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme including: • a registered residential care or nursing home • registered domiciliary care provider • a voluntary managed hospice provider and those employed by those who receive direct payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants. To be offered same vaccine as clinical risk group of same age.

POSTER: Flu vaccines 2026 to 2027 season

POSTER: Flu vaccines for children and young people 2026 to 2027

LEAFLET: The flu vaccination: who should have it and why



Clinical risk groups for flu vaccination

The following groups should be offered flu vaccination on the grounds of clinical risk (age 6 months upwards):

- Chronic respiratory disease
- Chronic heart disease (including congenital heart, vascular disease or history of venous thromboembolism)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic neurological disease
- Diabetes and adrenal insufficiency
- Immunosuppression
- Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen
- BMI 40 or over

Source: Green book chapter 19 Influenza [Influenza: the green book, chapter 19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19)



All influenza vaccines marketed in the UK for the 2026 to 2027 season (text version)- Updated 21 July 2026

Supplier [footnote 1]	Product	Vaccine type [footnote 2]	Age indications	Ovalbumin content micrograms/dose	Contact details
AstraZeneca UK Ltd	Fluenz®	LAIV (live attenuated influenza vaccine) supplied as nasal spray suspension, egg-cultured (LAIV)	From 24 months to less than 18 years of age	Less than 0.024 micrograms per 0.2 ml dose	0800 783 0033
Sanofi	Vaxigrip	Inactivated influenza vaccine, split virion, egg cultured (IIVe)	From 6 months	Equal to or less than 0.05 micrograms per 0.5 ml dose	0800 854 430
CSL Seqirus UK	Cell-based Trivalent Influenza Vaccine Seqirus ▼	Inactivated influenza vaccine surface antigen, cell cultured (IIVc)	From 6 months	Egg-free	0345 0093 804
Sanofi	Supemtek TIVr ▼	Inactivated influenza vaccine, recombinant, cell cultured (IIVr)	From 18 years	None	0800 854 430
Sanofi	Efluelda TIV-HD ▼	Inactivated influenza vaccine, split virion, 60 micrograms HA/strain, egg cultured (IIV-HD)	From 60 years	Equal to or less than 1 microgram per 0.5ml dose	0800 854 430
CSL Seqirus UK	Adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza Vaccine Seqirus ▼	Inactivated influenza vaccine surface antigen, adjuvanted with MF59C.1, egg cultured (aIIV)	From 50 years	Equal to or less than 1 microgram per 0.5ml dose	0345 0093 804

1. Viatris are not supplying flu vaccines to the UK market in 2026 to 2027. ↩ 2. All vaccines marketed for the 2026 to 2027 season are trivalent. ↩

2026 to 2027 flu season

Which flu vaccine should children have?

The following vaccines are suitable for children and this chart indicates which vaccine is recommended by age for this season

LAIV nasal spray

Live attenuated influenza vaccine, nasal spray suspension
Available to order from ImmForm

IIVc injection

Cell-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine
Available to order from ImmForm

IIVe injection

Egg-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine
Not supplied by ImmForm

What is the child or young person's age?

under **6 months**
of age

Infants under 6 months of age are too young to have the flu vaccine (this is why it is important that expectant mothers have a flu vaccination; pregnant women can have the flu vaccine at any stage of their pregnancy)

6 months to under **2 years**

Are they in a clinical risk group?⁽ⁱ⁾

No

They are not eligible for the flu vaccine

Yes

They should have the injected IIVc

Or IIVe^(iv) if IIVc is not available

Children in this age group who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

From **2 years⁽ⁱⁱ⁾** to less than **18 years** of age
in eligible year group or in a clinical risk group⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

Is the LAIV nasal spray contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable?⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾

No

No contraindications to LAIV nasal spray

They should have the LAIV nasal spray vaccine

Children under 9 years of age in a clinical risk group⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart

Yes

LAIV contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable

They should have the injected IIVc

Or IIVe^(iv) if IIVc not available

Children under 9 years of age in a clinical risk group⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ who have never had a flu vaccination will need 2 doses at least 4 weeks apart



⁽ⁱ⁾ Aged 2 years on 31 August 2026, unless in a clinical risk group.
⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ Or a child who is a household contact of an immunocompromised individual.
⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾ If the parent of an eligible child declines LAIV because of its porcine gelatine content, they can request an alternative injectable vaccine. IIVc is available to order from ImmForm for these children.
^(iv) IIVe is not supplied by ImmForm.

Note that IIVx is used on this resource to denote all inactivated influenza vaccines. All vaccines used for the 2026 to 2027 season are trivalent.

Resources

Green Book Influenza Chapter 19

www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19

Annual flu programme

www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme

Flu vaccines 2026 to 2027 season

6 months to less than 2 years in a clinical risk group ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	2 years to less than 18 years in eligible year groups or in a clinical risk group ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	Aged 18 to 49 years in clinical risk group ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ and including pregnant women ⁽ⁱⁱⁱ⁾	50 years to 64 years in a clinical risk group ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	65 years and over
IVc (cell-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine) or IIve (egg-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine) if IVc not available	No contraindications to LAIV LAIV (Live attenuated influenza vaccine, nasal spray suspension)	IVc (cell-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine) IIvr (recombinant inactivated influenza vaccine) or IIve (egg-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine) if recommended vaccines listed above not available	aIV (adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine) IVc (cell-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine) ^(iv) IV-HD (high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine) ^(iv) IIvr (recombinant inactivated influenza vaccine) ^(iv) or IIve (egg-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine) if recommended vaccines listed above not available	aIV (adjuvanted inactivated influenza vaccine) IVc (cell-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine) ^(iv) IV-HD (high-dose inactivated influenza vaccine) ^(iv) IIvr (recombinant inactivated influenza vaccine) ^(iv)
1 ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ or 2 ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾	3	1 4 or 2	5 ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ 1 6 ⁽ⁱⁱ⁾ 4 or 2	5 1 6 4

Cell-based Trivalent Influenza Vaccine ▼
CSL Seqirus

IVc

Egg-free

1



licensed from 6 months of age

Vaxigrip
Sanofi

IIve

2



licensed from 6 months of age

Fluenz
AstraZeneca

LAIV

3



licensed from 2 years to less than 18 years of age

Supemtek TIVr ▼
Sanofi

IIvr

Egg-free

4



licensed from 18 years of age

Adjuvanted Trivalent Influenza Vaccine ▼
CSL Seqirus

aIV

5



licensed from 50 years of age

Efludax TIV-HD ▼
Sanofi

IV-HD

6



licensed from 60 years of age

Eligible groups

- aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2026
- eligible school-aged children (Reception to Year 11)
- those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- all those aged 65 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance or main carer of an older or disabled person

- household contacts of immunocompromised individuals
 - frontline health and social care staff
 - People experiencing homelessness (defined as "rough sleepers and those using homeless hostels or night-shelters, rather than the broader definitions of homelessness"), aged 16 years and over
- See Green Book Influenza Chapter for full details on eligible groups**

Resources

Annual flu programme www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-flu-programme

Green Book Influenza Chapter 19 www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19

- IVc and LAIV for eligible children available to order from InnForm by general practice and school-age providers. Community pharmacies should see arrangements in the flu letter amendment <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-flu-immunisation-programme-plan-2026-to-2027>
- This is not applied by InnForm
- If the parent of an eligible child declines LAIV because of its porcine gelatine content they can request an alternative injectable vaccine. For these children IIve is available to order from InnForm by general practice and school-age providers
- Or household contact of an immunocompromised individual, Or a person experiencing homelessness
- aIV is not to be used in women who are pregnant or breast-feeding
- Licensed for individuals aged 60 years and over, can be given off label to those aged 50 to 59 years
- Although this vaccine can be used for those aged 50 years and over, the priority is to use it in younger adults to preserve supplies. There are alternative preferred vaccines that can only be given to older adults

Note that IIvr is used on this resource to denote all inactivated influenza vaccines. In the boxes denoting the images of the vaccine packaging, the manufacturers name of the vaccine is given, which in some cases includes 'TIV' or 'trivalent'. All vaccines used for the 2026 to 2027 season are trivalent.
Note that all preferred vaccines are listed alphabetically.

Flu i mmunisation

Helping to protect people, every winter

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Co-administration – pregnant people

PREGNANT PEOPLE	Covid	Flu	Pertussis	RSV	MMR ²
Covid		✓	✓	✓	✗
Flu	✓		✓	✓	✗
Pertussis	✓	✓		✗ ₁	✗
RSV	✓	✓	✗ ₁		✗
MMR ²	✗	✗	✗	✗	

1. Giving pertussis and RSV vaccines separately at the typical scheduled times (around 20 weeks for pertussis and from 28 weeks for RSV) will avoid any potential attenuation of antibody response to the pertussis containing vaccine if co-administered. If a woman has not received a pertussis containing vaccine by the time she presents for Abrysvo® RSV vaccine, both vaccines can and **should** be given at the same appointment to provide timely protection against both infections to the infant. Ref [Green Book on Immunisation chapter 27a Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\)](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/green-book-on-immunisation-chapter-27a-respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))

2. MMR vaccination is contraindicated in pregnancy. Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated pregnant people should be offered missing doses post-partum, for example at the post-natal check or if they accompany their infant to their routine immunisations. If two doses of MMR are required, then the second dose should be given one month after the first. Ref [Green Book of Immunisation - Chapter 21 Measles](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/100000/green-book-on-immunisation-chapter-21-measles.pdf) ([publishing.service.gov.uk](https://www.publishing.service.gov.uk))

Please refer to the appropriate chapters in the Green Book for full guidance and recommendations for other vaccines [Immunisation against infectious disease - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/green-book-on-immunisation)

Co-administration – older adults

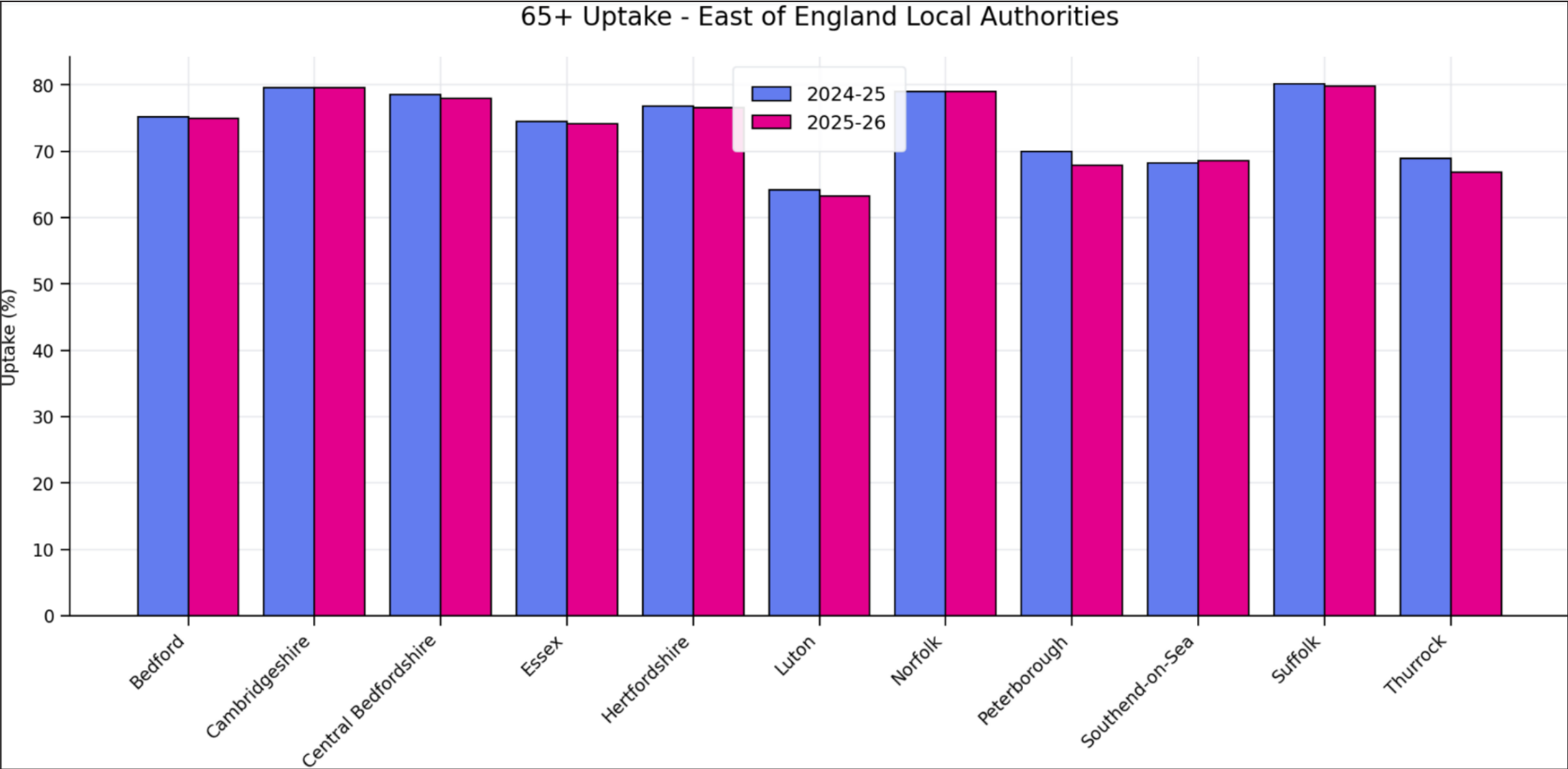
OLDER ADULTS	Covid	Flu	PPV	RSV	Shingrix	MMR
Covid		✓	✓	✓ ₁	✓	✓
Flu	✓		✓	✗ ₁	✓	✓
PPV	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓
RSV	✓ ₁	✗ ₁	✓		✓	✓
Shingrix	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
MMR	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	

JCVI has assessed new data on co-administration and advised that older adults' RSV vaccines can be routinely scheduled alongside COVID-19 vaccines.

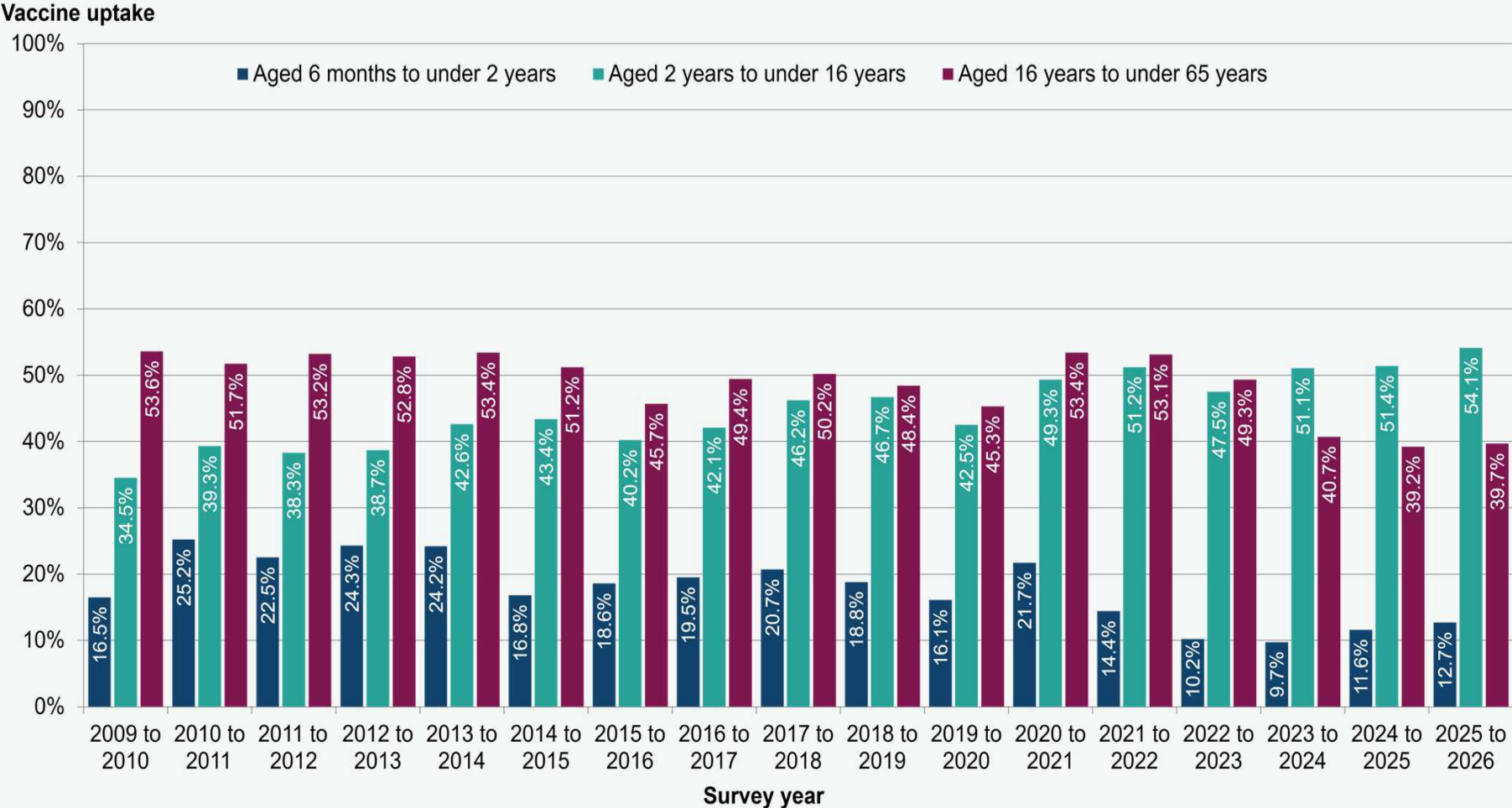
There is some evidence that coadministration of influenza vaccines with RSV vaccines in older adults may reduce the immune response to the RSV vaccine and the H3N2 component of the flu vaccine. If it is thought that the individual is unlikely to return for a second appointment or immediate protection is necessary, RSV vaccine can be administered at the same time as influenza vaccination.

NB: these are all inactivated vaccines and there are no restrictions on co-administration of any of them with any other vaccine not covered by this slide set, but the [Green Book](#) should be consulted.

2024/25 and 2025/26 65+ % uptake of influenza vaccine by LA



2009 to 2010 to 2025to 2026 influenza vaccine uptake percentage by clinical risk group (6 months-65 years, England)



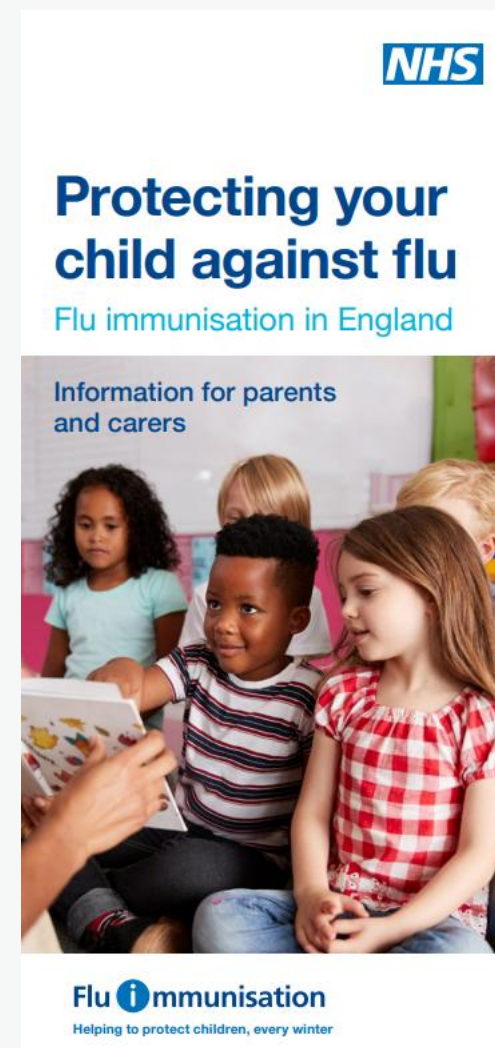
Less than half of people in clinical risk groups under 65 years were vaccinated against flu last year

Patients with learning disability chronic, liver disease and morbid obesity had the lowest uptake nationally.

Please support all patients in clinical risk groups to access vaccination this season.

Children in clinical risk groups

- **General practice is responsible for inviting all children aged 6 months to 18 years in clinical risk groups for their flu vaccination**, although school age children may also be picked up by CSAIS
- **Coverage is lowest in children in clinical risk groups age 6 months – 2 years** (only ~10%¹) - please ensure you are reaching out to parents of children in this group
- **The low coverage in the 6 months to 2-year age group may reflect inaccuracies in coding** (ie health issues which subsequently resolve).
- **Please review the children coded to this category in your practice.** This will ensure a more accurate denominator for calculating coverage.



Poster: Protecting your child against flu

Invites for children aged 2 and 3

Invitation letters to 2 and 3 year olds are sent locally by the Child Health Information Service (CHIS) directly to parents. These should arrive in week commencing 15th September. The letter will encourage parents to contact their GP for an appointment if they have not done so already.

Please ensure that you have clinics planned for September so that children can be booked straight into a session.

Letters will also be sent to 4-year-olds that do not have a school noted on their record in order to pick up home educated or children with a deferred entry. Parents will be advised to contact the Community School Aged Immunisation service to book a vaccination.

The image shows a template for an NHS letter. At the top right is the NHS England East of England logo. Below it, on the right, is the text 'An immunisation is available at:' followed by three lines for a specific treatment centre and a telephone number. On the left, there are fields for the parent/guardian's name and address. Below that, a paragraph explains that the flu vaccination is part of the UK routine childhood immunisation schedule. Further down, there are fields for the child's date of birth and NHS number. A section titled 'Flu is not a bad cold' explains the symptoms of flu and why vaccination is important. Another section states that flu vaccination in children is extremely effective and describes the two types of vaccine available. It also mentions that the nurse will check the child's MMR and polio status. A bolded statement says 'THIS IS AN ANNUAL VACCINE AND YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO RECEIVE IT EVERY YEAR TO REMAIN PROTECTED (subject to national policy)'. A section titled 'It is very important that your child is protected as early as possible into flu season' explains the timing of the vaccine. A final paragraph says 'If your child has already received their flu vaccine this year, please disregard this letter. Regards,'. At the bottom, there is a 'CHIS Lead' field and a 'Child Health Information Service' field. A large box at the bottom contains a form for a vaccination appointment, with fields for the day of the week, day, month, and time.

NHS
England
East of England

An immunisation is available at:
<Specific Treatment Centre>
<Specific Treatment Centre>
<Specific Treatment Centre>
Tel: <Specific Treatment Centre>

The Parent/Guardian of
<Forename> <Surname>
<Parent Address>

The Flu vaccination is part of the UK Routine Childhood Immunisation schedule and is available for your child <Parent Name> at your GP Practice.

Born on <Date of birth>
NHS Number <NHS number>

Flu is not a bad cold
Flu causes fever, chills, headaches, aches and pains and extreme tiredness. Healthy people usually recover within a week, but for some, the disease can lead to permanent disability or even death. Children under 5 are the group most likely to require a hospital admission with flu.

Flu vaccination in children is extremely effective. There are two types of flu vaccine available: a nasal vaccine and an injectable vaccine (no pork gelatine). Most children will receive the nasal vaccine. The injectable vaccine will be given, where required, due to allergy or medical condition or where parents request the injectable due to the pork gelatine element of the nasal vaccine. Please speak to your GP surgery about this when booking your child's appointment.

The nurse will also check your child is up to date with MMR and polio vaccines.

If you have any concerns about immunisation, you can discuss this with your practice nurse.
THIS IS AN ANNUAL VACCINE AND YOUR CHILD NEEDS TO RECEIVE IT EVERY YEAR TO REMAIN PROTECTED (subject to national policy).

It is very important that your child is protected as early as possible into flu season. You may be contacted directly by your doctor's surgery with an appointment. If not, please contact them. Flu vaccinations will be available nationally from early September onwards, but appointment dates and times will differ between GP Practices. For more information, visit: www.nhs.uk/child-flu or contact your GP surgery.

If your child has already received their flu vaccine this year, please disregard this letter.
Regards,

CHIS Lead
Child Health Information Service

Vaccination appointment for _____ (name) at venue: _____
(day of the week) (day) (month) at (time)

Community School Aged Immunisation Service (CSAIS)

For children in school years Reception to Year 11, the East of England the Community School Aged Immunisation Service (CSAIS), will offer the flu vaccine as part of the school immunisation programme. In some areas, delivery is undertaken by Vaccination UK, as a sub-contractor of CSAIS.

If children aged 4 are not yet at school, or if children are aged Reception to Year 11 but are home-schooled, parents/guardians can contact their local CSAIS to book a flu vaccine appointment. Contact details can be found here [NHS England — East of England » Useful contacts](#)

Whilst children in clinical risk groups will be offered vaccination in school alongside their peers, **GP Practices should continue to invite these children as for vaccination to ensure early protection.**

School vaccination contacts in the East of England

Area	Email	Telephone
Hertfordshire	hct.csaisherts@nhs.net	0300 555 5055 Option 1
Norfolk	hct.csaisnorfolk@nhs.net	0300 555 5055 Option 2
Suffolk	hct.csaissuffolk@nhs.net	0300 555 5055 Option 3
Cambridgeshire & Peterborough	hct.csaiscambspb@nhs.net	0300 555 5055 Option 4
BLMK	hct.csaisblmk@nhs.net	0300 555 5055 Option 5
Essex	hct.csaismse@nhs.net	0300 555 5055 Option 6
Vaccination UK (influenza only)	vaccinationhertfordshire@evguk.co.uk	01462 341173

Vaccine supply for the children's flu programme 2026/27

There are 3 types of flu vaccine available for children in 2026 to 2027:

1. Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) nasal spray suspension. Available to order from ImmForm.
2. Injected inactivated influenza vaccine, cell-cultured (IIVc). Available to order from ImmForm.
3. Injected inactivated influenza vaccine, egg-cultured (IIVe). Not supplied by ImmForm.

Please see further details [here](#).

UKHSA have ordered stock for children that practices can order from ImmForm.

Should there be any changes to this schedule, these will be communicated by UKHSA on the [ImmForm](#) website and through the vaccine updates.

Should you be planning a large clinic and need to order more vaccine from Immform than your ordering cap, please contact your Screening and Immunisation Team:

england.eoeimms@nhs.net

**5 reasons to
vaccinate your
child against flu
poster (33
languages, large
print, braille,
audio and BSL)**

**POSTER: Flu
vaccines for
children and young
people 2025 to 2026**

Vaccinating Pregnant people



- There is good evidence that pregnant women have a higher chance of developing complications from flu, particularly in the latter stages of pregnancy
- The main reason for this is that pregnancy causes a shift in immune function that weakens the body's natural defence
- Temporary factors in pregnancy such as increased heart rate and reduced lung capacity can make it harder to fight off infection
- A study showed that [influenza vaccination](#) reduced the likelihood of prematurity and smaller infant size at birth associated with influenza infection (Omer et al., 2011)
- Women who have the flu vaccine while pregnant also pass some protection on to their babies passively, which can last for the first few months after birth - when the risk from flu is greatest.
- Infants born to vaccinated women are around 70% less likely to be admitted to hospital with flu over the first 6 months of life
- GPs – should make proactive offers to all pregnant women prior to the start of the flu season in readiness to offer vaccination from 1 September. Practices should continue to contact those who are or who have become eligible after the start of the season
- Maternity units/antenatal clinics –opportunistic vaccination should be offered in maternity appointments or through dedicated flu/maternity vaccination clinics. All maternity staff should be aware of the offer and be able to advise and direct patients to where they can access the vaccine
- [Community pharmacies](#) – participating pharmacies are eligible to vaccinate pregnant women from 1 September which can be accessed via walk-in or booked appointments: Find a pharmacy that offers free flu vaccination – NHS
- Opportunistically – CSAIS community clinics, for example while attending RSV call/recall clinic if they have not already received the flu vaccine

Engaging clinical risk groups

Key messages:

- The vaccine will help protect you against flu and serious complications that could put you in hospital.
- Individuals with certain health conditions such as diabetes and issues affecting lungs, heart, kidneys, liver or immune system, are at higher risk of severe complications if they get flu. It is especially important that they get vaccinated.
- The flu vaccine protects you, your family and friends, and is much better than having the flu!
- For maximum protection across winter, eligible children and pregnant women should get vaccinated in September, and adults from October.

Tactics to improve uptake include:

- Educating your whole workforce on eligible groups for flu vaccine is essential to enable supportive face-to-face conversations with patients across a variety of encounters and contexts
- Appointing a member of the team to communicate, answer questions for adults and parents with children in the 'at risk' cohort.
- Working with local pharmacies to add a note to prescription requests and remind patients that they are due a flu vaccine when they pick up their prescriptions.
- Supporting call and recall using template letters, sharing information with relevant groups in appropriate languages

Supporting people with a learning disability

Talk to people at their annual LD health check about why it is important that they have the flu vaccine.

People on the learning disability register should have it recorded in their notes that they “need a flu immunisation” - there is a specific Read code for this.

The person seeing the patient may need to assess the patient’s capacity to decide to have the flu vaccination. If they do not have capacity for this decision, then this should not be a barrier to the flu vaccination being given; there would need to be a decision taken by the health professional that this is in their best interests.

Put reasonable adjustments in place to help people with learning disabilities have the flu vaccination. GP surgeries should give a clear message that people with learning disabilities, their family carers and paid supporters are entitled to a free flu vaccination.

When someone with learning disabilities who is anxious about needles requires a blood test or an injection there should always be consideration of less invasive alternatives. This would include the use of the nasal spray flu vaccine.

**Simple text information
for adults and children
leaflet**

Easy Read Flu Leaflet

**Flu vaccinations:
supporting people with
learning disabilities
guidance**

**Supporting set of
slides that can be used
by as a training
resource.**

Pharmacy flu vaccination programme 26/27

Vaccination events must be recorded on the day of administration. This data will then feedback to general practitioner's records, the national reporting and payment systems.

RAVs has been assured for recording COVID and flu vaccinations in community pharmacy (CP) settings. RAVs will be linked to the BSA for COVID and flu payments, like your current POC systems. This means your payment process for COVID and flu will remain the same.

See link: [Amendment to national flu immunisation programme 2026 to 2027 letter - GOV.UK](#)

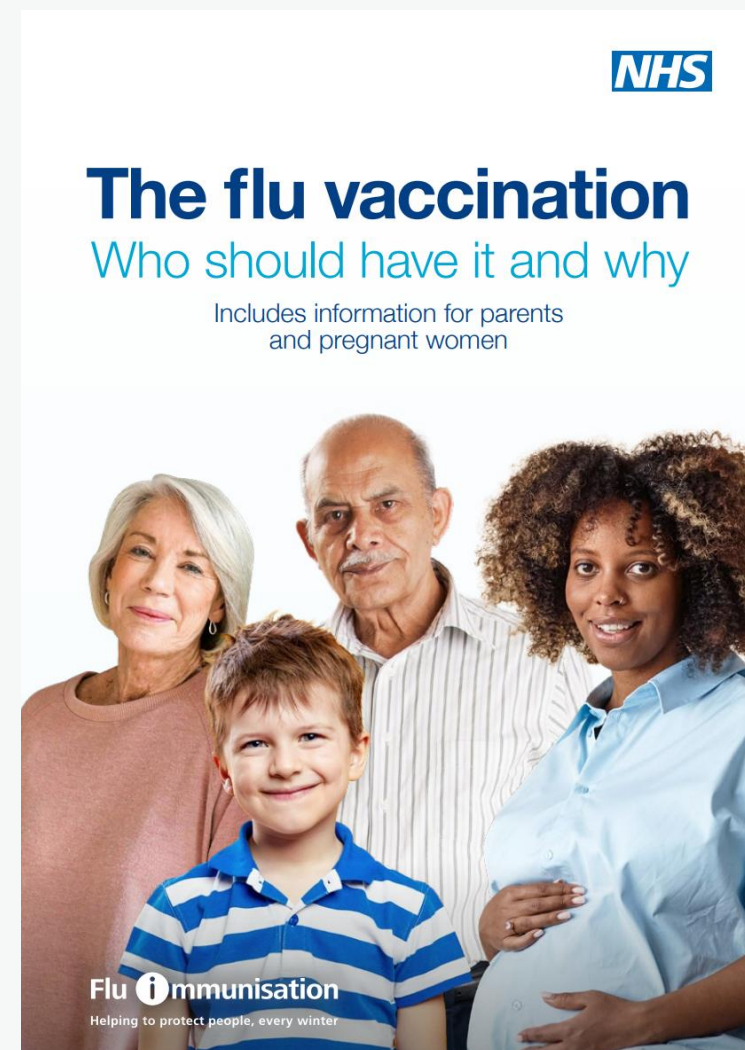
Community pharmacies can vaccinate 2&3 year olds from **1st October**, and children with at-risk conditions from 1st October. They can vaccinate all children from 1st December, supplementing the offer in General Practice who will start vaccinating from the 1 September 2026, or as soon as vaccine is available.

A training and resources pack are available here: [AW26 Seasonal Vaccination Provider Programme Guide - Vaccinations and Screening - Futures](#)

Communications resources

National materials

- [Flu vaccination for children: leaflets and posters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk) (33 languages)
- [Patient information leaflet - Who should get vaccinated and why?](#)
- [Flu vaccination: easy-read flu vaccination resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Influenza vaccines marketed in the UK - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Order Flu Publications - Health Publications](#)
- [Flu vaccination: letter template for at risk patients and carers - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Flu vaccination: letter template for children aged 2 and 3 years - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)
- [Recommendations | Flu vaccination: increasing uptake | Guidance | NICE](#)
- [British Islamic Medical Association information and poster](#)
- [NHS England — Midlands » Winter vaccination resources 2026/27](#)
- [Vaccine update: issue 374, August 2026 \(VU374\)](#)
- [Vaccine update: issue 375, Flu Special 2026 \(VU375\)](#)



Health and social care workers

The flu vaccine **should be provided by the employer** as part of the organisation's policy to prevent the transmission of infection. To give maximum protection to frontline health workers and to protect patients, all systems are asked to ensure convenient flu vaccination opportunities are available from **1st October 2026**. As in previous years, **GPs are covered to vaccinate their own staff**.

However, all frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme can get free vaccination **by self-declaring at their GP surgery or pharmacy**, or by self-declaring to the **national booking service**. They can also get **vaccinated at the same time as care home residents** by temporarily registering with the administering GP. This includes those working for a registered residential care or nursing home, registered domiciliary care providers, voluntary managed hospice providers and those that are employed by those who receive direct payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health budgets, such as Personal Assistants. The vaccination of care home residents and staff can commence from 1st October 2026.



[Case Studies: NHS England » Staff vaccinations](#)

Please make sure all HCW data is returned monthly on ImmForm.

[How to register for an ImmForm account](#)

ImmForm Helpdesk: [0207 183 8580](tel:02071838580)
Helpdesk@immform.org.uk

Record your staff vaccinations on [ImmForm](#)

Flu immunisation training and resources 2026 to 2027

You can access free training on flu immunisation on NHS England's e-Learning for healthcare programme (Elfh).

The e-learning course consists of knowledge sessions and assessment sessions, these can be accessed here: [NHSE elfh Hub](#)

Please find the newly published resources below:

[National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training - GOV.UK](#)

[The national flu vaccination programme training slide set 2026 to 2027](#)

[Increasing flu immunisation uptake in preschool children: best practice for GPs - GOV.UK](#)

Check: right vaccine, right cohort

In previous years, vaccine errors have been reported across all age groups. Staff should be vigilant about potential errors that may arise due to picking the incorrect vaccine type.

Please refer to the PGD and the [national protocol](#).

More information on vaccine and cold chain incident management can be found on the [NHSE – East of England site](#).

If you have any questions, please contact us at:

england.eoeimms@nhs.net

Any vaccine administration errors should be reported. National guidance provides advice to healthcare professionals in these circumstances.

Further information can be found [here](#).

**Put up posters to remind staff:
Flu vaccines 2026 to 2027 season**

**Flu vaccines for children 2026 to 2027
season**

Frequently asked questions (1)

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.

Porcine gelatine is used in Fluenz®, the nasal spray vaccine

Porcine gelatine is used in Fluenz®, the nasal spray vaccine that protects children against flu. For those who may not accept the use of porcine gelatine in medical products, injected flu vaccine is available as an alternative.

Why should children get vaccinated in September and other eligible groups wait until October?

The NHS will start by prioritising flu vaccinations for children and pregnant women, to prevent them from getting seriously ill from flu and ending up hospital, and to break the chain of transmission of the virus to the wider population.

Based on the latest scientific evidence showing that immunity doesn't last as long for older groups, the JCVI has recommended adults over the age of 65 and those with underlying health conditions will be eligible for a flu vaccination, starting from October. This will maximise protection across the winter months, especially in January when flu often peaks.

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

Frequently asked questions (2)

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.

Can children with an egg allergy have the flu vaccine?

Yes. Egg allergy update – egg allergy is no longer considered a contra-indication for any flu vaccines produced for the UK. No need to ask about potential egg allergy prior to administration.

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.

Will providers be paid based on the schedule?

For clinical effectiveness reasons, providers should make every effort to deliver vaccinations to the cohorts in the specific schedule outlined earlier in this pack. Payment for vaccinations will ordinarily only be made following the service commencement date.

Thank you for reading

Do you have a question on flu imms that hasn't been answered?

Email:

england.eoeimms@nhs.net

Or for general enquiries: england.eoe-vacprg@nhs.net