

Flu vaccination

Information about the flu vaccination programme. What it is, why flu vaccination is important, who is eligible and links to a wide range of helpful resources for both public and health professionals.

Who is this page for?

- Public
- Professionals
- Young people
- Older people

What is flu?

Flu is an infectious virus that spreads through the air when people cough or sneeze. It can also spread when people touch surfaces where the virus has landed then touch their eyes, nose or mouth. Flu can be serious, for some people it can lead to complications that may require hospital care and can be life threatening.

[Find out more about Flu](#)

About flu vaccine and eligibility

The flu vaccine is the safest and easiest way to protect against serious illness from flu. The vaccine is given to adults as an injection in the upper arm.

The flu vaccination programme runs each year, typically from October to March. It is delivered in partnership with general practitioners, community pharmacies and health and social care trusts, and is designed to offer flexibility and ease of access for those eligible.

Eligible groups

This winter, the flu vaccine is being offered to people at increased risk of getting seriously ill from flu.

Flu eligibility criteria for the 2026/27 Winter flu vaccination programme will be available soon. [Flu vaccine | nidirect](#)

**COVID-19 vaccination – some people will also be eligible for the COVID-19 vaccination this Winter*.*

More information:

- [Find out more about the flu vaccine on nidirect](#)
- [Seasonal influenza \(flu\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

Information for health and social care professionals

The following resources are available for health professionals to support confident conversations about the flu vaccination programme.

[Information for healthcare and other professionals | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

PHA resources

- [Influenza - Health professionals resources | HSC Public Health Agency](#) (should this be included?)
- [Information for healthcare and other professionals | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Influenza immunisation programme - factsheet for healthcare practitioners | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Flu vaccine information for health professionals | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Flu is more serious than you think \(poster and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Flu is more serious than you think \(English and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)
- [Flu is more serious than you think: pregnant women \(English and translations\) | HSC Public Health Agency](#)

Training

Please see below the current workforce education and training resources to support health professionals in delivering the 2026/27 flu vaccination programme. [NHSE elfh Hub](#)

Patient Group Directions - [PGDs/VGDs – Primary Care Intranet](#)

Guidance for Healthcare Professionals

- CMO letter - The Department of Health's CMO letter about the winter flu vaccination programme was published on 23rd July 2026 [and is available here.](#)
- Green Book - The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) Green Book provides information of flu immunisation. [Green Book Chapter Influenza](#)

Vaccination data

You can view data on vaccination in Northern Ireland in the [Seasonal influenza - annual surveillance reports | HSC Public Health Agency.](#)

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