

**REPORT TO:** Health and Wellbeing Board  
**DATE:** 2<sup>nd</sup> October 2019  
**REPORTING OFFICER:** Director of Public Health, Policy and Resource  
**PORTFOLIO:** Health and Wellbeing  
**SUBJECT:** Seasonal Flu Plan 2019/20  
**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

## 1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The report presents an the annual Flu plan with an overview of changes to and requirements of the annual seasonal influenza vaccination campaign for the 2019 – 2020 flu season and implications of this for the Local Authority and health and social care partner agencies.

## 2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That

- i) **The Health and Wellbeing Board note the content of the Annual Flu Plan and note the changes to the national flu vaccination programme for 2019-2020; and**
- ii) **Each individual agency note their requirements in relation to the programme and promote flu prevention as widely as possible.**

## 3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

### 3.1 Background

Influenza represents a significant cause of morbidity and mortality, and is a particular concern in those with existing health problems. Flu is ultimately preventable and flu vaccination remains an important tool in protecting the health of our population and reducing the burden on local health systems.

Influenza vaccination is a nationally developed programme for local implementation. The details of which are produced by Public Health England and published in the Winter Flu Plan for local adoption and delivery. This year sees some significant changes, predominantly to the extension of the offer of flu vaccine to now include all primary school aged children.

### 3.2 Previous campaigns

The ambition is to offer the flu vaccination to 100% of all those who are eligible to have it and while the objective is to obtain the maximum uptake possible, national targets are in place which differ by risk group as detailed below:

Eligible Group	Uptake ambition for 2017/18
Aged 65 and over	75%
Aged under 65 'at risk', including pregnant women	<b>At least 55%</b> (ultimately increasing to 75%)
Children ages 2 and 3 years	<b>At least 50%</b> with practices aiming to achieve higher
Primary School cohort	Average of <b>at least 65%</b> across all years
Health and care workers	75%

There has been a general decline in flu uptake, locally and nationally in the last few years, though Halton has seen an increase in uptake in the previous year.

### Uptake of Flu Vaccines across Halton CCG

Flu vaccine uptake in the last three years (%) was as follows:	2018/19		2017/18		2016/17		2015/16	
	Eng	Halton	Eng	Halton	Eng	Halton	Eng	Halton
Patients aged 65 years or older (CCG)	72.0	71.1 ↓	72.4	73.7	70.5	71.5	71.0	72.2
Patients under 65 years in risk groups (CCG)	48.0	45.6 ↓	48.9	50.4	48.6	51.0	45.1	47.6
Pregnant women (CCG)	45.2	41.3 ↓	47.1	50.4	44.9	50.5	42.3	49.1
Health care workers St Helens and Knowsley NHS Trust	70.3	95.4 ↑	68.7	87.2	63.0	82.0	54.6	76.6
Warrington and Halton Hospital NHS Trust		89.6 ↑		85.5		81.8		81.6
Two years old (including those in risk groups) (CCG)	43.8	34.3 ↓	42.6	40.2	38.9	36.9	35.4	36.0
Three years old (including those in risk groups) (CCG)	45.9	38.4 ↓	44.0	45.8	41.5	41.9	37.7	38.6
Reception Year	64.3	66.7 ↑	62.6	57.4	X	X	X	X
School year 1	63.6	61.9 ↑	61.0	58.3	57.6	52.4	54.4	53.1
School Year 2	61.5	62.2 ↑	60.4	53.6	55.4	54.2	52.9	54.2
School Year 3	60.4	57.4 ↑	57.6	54.2	53.3	52.9	X	X
School Year 4	58.3	56.4 ↑	55.8	50.3	X	X	X	X
School Year 5	56.5	55.7	X	X	X	X	X	X

\*Cell colour indicates if indicative targets have been achieved, red indicates target some distance from target, amber indicates close to achieving, green indicates target achieved. Arrow indicates direction of travel from previous year.

- 3.3 Uptake amongst front line health care workers continues to increase, with St Helens and Knowsley and Warrington and Halton Hospital Trust achieving significantly higher than target and national average uptake amongst front line health staff.

Data for uptake amongst social care workers is not currently available but nationally the uptake amongst this cohort is low.

### **Flu programme 2019-20**

#### Key changes to this year's plan

- Healthy Child programme has been extended to include all primary school age children
- Social Care workers, including those in hospice provision, will continue to be eligible for vaccination under the national programme
- There is a new vaccine available for those aged between 18 and 64 which provides an egg free option for those who are allergic to eggs. The cell-QIVc will be available alongside the egg-grown quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVe)
- There are now 3 vaccines available to those over 65s, Adjuvant Trivalent inactivated vaccine (aTIV) is still recommended, with the additional of the QIVc vaccine and the newly licensed high dose trivalent influenza vaccine (TIV-HD). While individuals will not be given a choice of vaccine, a choice is available for health care professionals to order for their population as required.

- 3.4 Other than the extension of the school programmes, there has been no additional change to the people eligible for the flu vaccination in the 2019/20 community provide flu programme, these are:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged six months to under 65 in clinical risk groups which include:
  - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis
  - chronic heart disease, kidney disease, liver disease, neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease, or learning disability
  - diabetes
  - Non-functioning or absent spleen
  - a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
  - Morbidly obese individuals
- pregnant women
- all two and three year olds
- Primary school age children
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- Front line social care staff

### 3.5 Flu programme delivery

The vaccinations will be delivered through primary care (GP practices) and community Pharmacies for the majority of the eligible persons (over 65, those in a clinical risk group between 18-65 years of age, pregnant women (although midwifery services also vaccinate pregnant women as part of an NHSE contract) and carers. The vaccine for children in a clinical risk group will be undertaken in general practice only. Vaccination of eligible children in school settings will be delivered by School Nurses.

Halton has also contracted with CGL for the flu vaccination to be offered to individuals in risk groups attending substance treatment services.

There is a requirement for all frontline health and social care workers to be offered flu vaccination by their employer. This includes general practice staff. General practice and hospital staff vaccinations are undertaken by their own staff and occupational health units.

Staff employed by social care services, care homes, hospices and domiciliary care agencies can receive vaccination at either their GP or community pharmacy on production of a relevant form of ID (employer ID badge, payslip or letter from employer)

### 3.6 Publicity and marketing

There will be a national public facing Winter Pressures publicity campaign, which will include flu vaccination promotion local services are participating in this 'Stay Well this Winter' and 'Help us Help You' campaign.

Other local campaign approaches for this year include:

- Using Catch App to engage with parents of children under 5 about flu vaccination and flu messages
- General awareness and publicity in children's settings
- Working with Warrington and Halton Hospital Foundation Trust to message patients about flu
- High volume social media messaging
- Working with Primary Care Networks to explore alternative vaccination approaches
- Engaging local media in positive stories and information

#### Potential challenges

A number of challenges have been identified for which consideration needs to be given.

### *Change of vaccines used*

NHS England has confirmed that there is a potential vaccine supply issue from one manufacturer, this may impact upon delivery for practices who have ordered this vaccine.

### *Social Care staff*

Front line health and social care staff should receive the vaccination in order to protect themselves, their family and as importantly, the people that provide care for. Ensuring high uptake amongst the wider health and social care workforce is has always proved a challenge. An opportunity to engage staff to a greater extent exists this year due to the expansion of the national programme to this group of people.

## 4.0 **POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

- 4.1 The flu vaccination programme is a national requirement, monitored through monthly returns to NHS England.

## 5.0 **OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 There will be financial implications in the implementation of the national programme – vaccinations within primary care and to risk groups is covered through national arrangements. Individual employer organisations of health and social care staff are required to resource arrangements for the provision of vaccination. Resource is required to promote vaccination uptake amongst all eligible groups and maximise the programmes impact.
- 5.2 Flu presents an annual health challenge on the health and social care system and is responsible for a large proportion of excess winter deaths. Cases of flu pose a significant burden on primary and secondary health care systems. Outbreaks amongst vulnerable groups are common in unprotected communities and can be difficult to manage and control. Flu is preventable and inequities in uptake across the Borough, within higher risk populations and staffing groups can put the most vulnerable people at greater risk.

## 6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

### 6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Children represent one of the key sources of carriage of flu virus in the community, ensuring high uptake amongst children is one of the best ways to ensure limit the spread of flu in our communities and protect our most vulnerable children and members of the community from a preventable illness.

### 6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Maximising vaccine uptake amongst eligible groups will protect members of our communities, facilitating people to maintain good health through the winter period will maximise employment and learning opportunities and limit absence from school and workplaces.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Flu is a preventable illness. Ensuring good uptake of flu vaccination for risk groups and health and social care staff, will prevent illness and death within Halton.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

None specified

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

None specified

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 *Failing to adequately implement the national flu plan and protect our community puts the population at significant risk of outbreaks and increased incidence of a serious, preventable infection. Failure to provide flu vaccination for eligible front line health and social care staff is a corporate risk and can put employees and service users at increased risk of influenza.*

8.0 **EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

8.1 *The strategy is developed in line with all equality and diversity issues within Halton.*

9.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

There are none within the meaning of the Act.