

Delivery of St Helens Flu Vaccination Programme 2020/2021

Update on Plans- updated 18th August 2020

1.0 National Guidance

The 2nd national flu letter was published on 5th August 2020, key points to note from the letter include:

- The expansion of the programme to include 50-64 year olds from November in a phased approach subject to vaccine supply
- The Department of Health and Social Care has purchased an additional national supply of vaccine, further details will be released in September regarding access to these additional vaccines
- Additional eligible groups have been added including household contacts of those on the NHS shielded patient list, health and social care workers employed through Direct Payment and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants, to deliver domiciliary care to patients and service users
- The uptake ambition is at least 75% for all eligible cohorts, with 100% offer to all health and social care staff. There is a focus on increasing uptake in those living in the most deprived areas and from BAME communities
- Community pharmacies will be able to vaccinate both care home residents and staff in the care home setting in a single visit, in addition to GPs
- Hospital Trusts will be asked to offer vaccinations to pregnant women attending maternity appointments and to those clinically at risk eligible patients attending in- and out-patient appointments
- Providers will be expected to deliver the programme according to guidelines on social distancing that are current at the time. Standard operating procedures in the context of COVID-19 have been issued for General Practice, community pharmacy, and community health services
- The flu vaccination programme will be supported with a major new public facing marketing campaign to encourage take up amongst eligible groups. This is due to launch in October with further details to follow

2.0 Local GP Programme

Planning for the local GP programme is well underway. There will be a mixed model of delivery for the 2020/21 programme:

- 18 out of 33 practices have opted to take part in a mass vaccination programme to be held at Saints. This will be for eligible over 65, under 65 at risk and pregnant patients
- For other eligible groups including care home residents, 2 and 3 year olds and those patients requiring home visits, vaccination will be delivered locally via GP practices.
- Practices who are not taking part in the mass vaccination sessions will deliver the programme within the GP practice as in previous years.

Mass Vaccination Programme:

- This will consist of an inside clinic (for elderly/vulnerable patients and those who are having a flu vaccine for first time) and a drive through clinic (healthy individuals, who have previously received a flu vaccine).
- The logistics and patient flow for the inside and drive through clinic sessions have been outlined and agreed. It is estimated that the inside clinics will be able to complete 336 vaccines per day.
- It is envisaged that the clinics will commence early September dependent on vaccine delivery, operating via a strict booking system organised by individual practices. The CCG are looking at completing a pilot with one practice on the first day of operation to ensure all issues are resolved and the clinics operate as planned
- Currently there is a weekly planning meeting with practices and there has been a number of task groups established to look at specific issues, such as maintaining the cold chain, the consent process.
- The CCG are currently compiling information from each practice taking part including the number of eligible patients by cohort, vaccine stocks and expected delivery dates, staffing, preferred clinic days and if they require inside or drive through clinic provision dependent on the profile of their patients. This information will be used to assign practices to set clinic slots.
- A communication is being drafted by the CCG to be sent out to practices outlining what the CCG will provide and is responsible for (for example marshals at the venue, equipment, template invite letters and consent forms) and what individual practices will need to provide such as clinical/admin staff, vaccines, consumables, indemnity cover, PPE.
- Additional PPE guidance for the delivery of flu vaccination programmes is due to be published imminently
- The IPC Team will be asked to check the rooms prior to any clinic sessions taking place

3.0 Pharmacy Programme

Flu vaccinations will be delivered in local pharmacies as in previous years. The CCG are working with the Local Pharmacy Committee to compile a list of local pharmacies that are planning on delivering the programme this year as able to comply with the standard operating procedures in relation to COVID 19.

4.0 Care Home Programme

Following the guidance issued in the 2nd flu letter it is anticipated that the majority of residents and staff in care homes will be vaccinated by local pharmacies. The CCG have asked practices to liaise with their local community pharmacies to formulate a plan to ensure maximum uptake is achieved amongst care home residents and staff. As in previous years care home staff can also receive a vaccination via their GP or another local pharmacy as part of the national scheme for health and social care staff.

The Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) Team will deliver virtual training for care home staff in September and will support care homes in completion of the flu care home pack issued by Public Health England. The IPC Team will also continue to provide support to care homes in the event of an outbreak. The arrangements for influenza swabbing in the event of an outbreak is yet to be determined but is likely that this will be completed by the IPC Team.

5.0 Schools Programme

The schools programme has been extended this year to include children in year 7 in addition to all primary school children. The St Helens programme is delivered by the Immunisation Team from North West Boroughs NHS Trust.

The programme will be delivered in schools from October to December. The programme delivery usually begins 2nd week in October but there are early indications that the Fluenz vaccine may be available late September which will allow the programme to commence at an earlier date.

Over this period the programme will be delivered in schools as usual, there are 52 primary schools and 10 high schools (including special schools) in St Helens borough (approx. 18,000 children).

The team will be contacting schools at the beginning of September with dates to deliver the Fluenz programme and will provide the school with promotional materials including a video from Public Health England to be delivered by teachers during lessons. The team will also utilise social media platforms including school websites and parent mail to promote the

Fluenz. The consent forms will be given out to children by their class teacher and collected 2 weeks later by the team from the school reception.

Each school will be visited once during the delivery period. The exact arrangements for delivery will be determined on a school by school basis and plans may need to be adjusted and additional sessions put on to accommodate the requirements due to COVID 19. Any child who is absent on the day will be issued with a letter to invite them to attend one of the mop clinics held at various locations across the borough either in the half term holidays or at the end of the Fluenz delivery period. Appropriate PPE provided by North West Boroughs will be worn by staff delivering the sessions.

The Immunisation Team will be supported by clinical support workers, band 3 staff who have been trained to deliver the nasal spray to children under the guidance of a qualified nurse supported by a PGD to increase the capacity of the team to deliver the number of vaccinations required over this 3 month period.

6.0 Vulnerable Groups

Vaccination of pregnant women will remain the responsibility of the GP. High risk women who attend the acute trust for their antenatal care will receive a flu vaccination via this route as in previous years. In addition to pregnant women the 2nd flu letter has outlined that hospital trusts will be asked to vaccinate eligible in and outpatients. The CCG are in discussion with the Trust and a representative from the Trust will be invited to join the local flu task group.

CGL Specialist substance misuse service commissioned by the Local authority have ordered flu vaccines and will be offering vaccination to all their clients.

The homeless Health Service based at North West Boroughs are considering an additional offer for the homeless population in addition to the existing offer available via the GP, local pharmacy. The service is exploring the governance arrangements with their Medicines Management Team in order to administer the vaccine to clients.

7.0 Local Authority Employee Flu Programme

At present it is uncertain to working arrangements in September. It is therefore envisaged that the employee flu vaccination programme will be delivered via pharmacy vouchers only. A paper has been drafted outlining this approach to be agreed at the relevant committee.

HR have supplied the Public Health Team with a list of eligible posts. Managers will be emailed and asked to review the list of eligible employees. These employees will be notified by email/letter advising of their eligibility and asked to advise if they wish to take up the

offer of a pharmacy voucher. Following this, vouchers will be ordered. The exact arrangements of distribution of vouchers is yet to be established.

CCG employees will receive their flu vaccination via the staff programme at St Helens and Knowsley Hospital NHS Trust.

8.0 Antiviral Provision

A select number of pharmacies as determined by NHSE will hold stocks of antivirals. The details of the local pharmacies will be distributed when they become available.

Medicines Management at the CCG are in discussion with the GP out of Hours service Rota regarding the provision of an in season (when CMO declares flu season) and out of season antiviral service both in and out of hours to support with any management of flu outbreaks in settings including nursing homes and educational settings across St Helens. The exact settings the service will cover is still under discussion.

9.0 Outbreak Management

Suspected flu outbreaks will be reported to Public Health England as is normal practice. Public Health England will lead the outbreak response with support from the local public health team and key partners.

10. Communications

In addition to the national campaign due to be launched in October, a regional communications plan is being developed by NHSE for Cheshire and Merseyside. This plan will focus on the priority groups including 2/3 year olds, under 65 at risk, people living in the most deprived areas and BAME communities . Once finalised this will be circulated to be used locally.

Locally the CCG have developed a flyer outlining the eligible groups for distribution via GP practices.