

Appendix G

The Autumn/Winter (Seasonal Flu and Covid) vaccination programmes 2024-25

Since 1st April 2022 we have had a dedicated vaccination team to deliver adult flu, covid, pneumococcal and shingles vaccination programmes, with Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccine for adults added in 2024; along with ad hoc vaccines and to support other services with their vaccination programmes. It is managed through the Public Health Directorate and supplemented by community and primary care nursing teams and bank staff (for this seasonal programme).

School Nursing / Child Health delivers the school based flu programme and Occupational Health works with the Vaccination Team to deliver the staff vaccination programme. There is also a small team of staff scheduling appointments at the Vaccination Centre and other clinics, and administering the programme as a whole, supported by the primary care administration team and practices. The programme is also supported by significant staffing capacity from Public Health, Pharmacy, Maternity and Estates & Facilities. Staff training has been facilitated by staff development and public health and clinical team leaders, utilising the national training resources on Turas.

The autumn / winter flu and covid programme commenced at the beginning of September and will run until 20th December. However there will be further catch up activity from the beginning of January continuing until the end of the covid programme on 31st January 2025 and the flu programme on 31st March 2025.

There has been considerable local public communications (social media local media, and via local businesses and organisations) for both the covid and flu vaccination programmes, led by the communication team and vaccination teams. This will continue until the end of the vaccination programme

Eligible Groups 2024-25

The following groups are being offered seasonal flu and covid booster vaccination:

- People living or working in a care home for older adults
- People aged 65 and over
- Children and adults aged 6 months and over [with an eligible health condition](#)
- Pregnant women
- Frontline health and social care workers

Co-administration of flu and covid vaccines is done wherever possible.

The following groups are being offered just seasonal flu vaccination:

- People aged 18 to 64 with [an eligible health condition](#)
- Anyone living with someone who has a weakened immune system
- Unpaid or young carers
- Non-frontline NHS workers
- Poultry workers

- Asylum seekers living in a home office hotel or B&B accommodation
- People experiencing homelessness or substance misuse
- People living in a Scottish prison
- People living in long-stay residential care home or other long stay care facility

Venues and scheduling

This season, we have moved towards issuing more appointments and prompts via national letter rather than individual phone calls. People who receive a prompt letter can book an appointment via the national booking portal or by contacting the vaccination (admin) team, occupational health or their health centre. Individual health centres also invite their patients by phone and local publicity.

Clinics are being / have been held for adults in the following settings:

- The Grantfield Vaccination Centre -Lerwick residents and people from other areas, health and social care staff (no appointment needed for staff).
- Unst, Yell and Whalsay and Hillswick Health Centres and non-doctor island clinics – all registered patients
- Levenwick, Scalloway, Bixter, Walls, Brae Health Centres - all over 75s and some other adults
- Care Centres -residents and staff
- Community settings –Bixter Hall, Sandwick Social Club, Brae Hall, Bressay Hub – primary those aged 65-74 from these areas, all residents in Bressay.
- Occupational Health –health and social care staff
- Gilbert Bain Hospital – NHS staff, eligible in-patients, clinics for high risk patients, patients needing non mRNA vaccine, pregnant women in antenatal clinics.

Children are offered flu vaccine in school or at their GP practice; and covid vaccine at dedicated clinics in the Vaccination Centre .

In addition:

- Housebound people have been offered vaccination in their own home
- The vaccination team has worked with the Learning Disabilities nurse to offer appointments in the most appropriate setting for individuals.
- If people walk in to the vaccination clinic with no appointment, they will still be seen if eligible for vaccination but may have to wait.

Uptake Rates

All covid vaccinations and flu vaccinations are recorded on the Vaccination Management Tool which feeds into EMIS. Uptake is monitored weekly through national dashboards, Scottish Government flash reports and locally collected data

Uptake rates are available here: [PHS Vaccination Surveillance \(shinyapps.io\)](https://shinyapps.io/PHS-Vaccination-Surveillance/)

By 24th November 39.2% of all those eligible for covid vaccination in Shetland had been vaccinated. This is much less than last year (61.4%) but more than the Scottish overall uptake (32.8%) And 41.7% of all adults eligible for flu had been vaccinated, again lower than last year (54.6%) but higher than the Scottish figure (36.1%).

For staff, only 36.5% of NHS staff have had flu vaccination so far this year (but much higher than Scottish average of 24.6%) and just 15.4% of frontline social care workers (Scotland 10.3%). The covid uptakes are lower but JCVI no longer recommends covid for staff anyway. 27.8% frontline healthcare staff (Scotland 15.9%) and 12% of Social care workers (Scotland 7%)

For children aged 2-18, the flu uptake is much higher at 56.7% (Scotland 42.2%).