

Immunisation and screening update

Rachel Robinson– Director of Public Health
Shropshire Council

According to the World Health Organization (WHO)

“The 2 public health interventions that have had the greatest impact on the world's health are clean water and vaccines.”¹

mmunisation programmes are a safe and cost-effective public health intervention that have saved countless lives and reduced health expenditure

Screening and Immunisations

Following the COVID 19 pandemic, the following programmes paused their programme in March 2020

Bowel cancer screening (temporary paused but recommenced at reduced level)

Breast screening (except high risk and surveillance)

Cervical Screening

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening

Diabetic Eye Screening

Adult Immunisation

Antenatal and Newborn Screening continued apart from hip ultrasound scan (resumed 01.07.20 and all appointments allocated) and Newborn Hearing Service (now resumed with audiology clearing their backlog and capacity to see new referrals)

Childhood immunisation Programmes

Restoration of services

Bowel cancer screening (SaTH) - Approval to recommence screening was granted on 08/06/20 and signed off by the Trust's Restoration Steering Group on 12/06/20.

Breast screening (except high risk and surveillance) (SaTH) - no capacity issues for Chemotherapy or Radiotherapy for Breast Cancer patients. As of 24/07/2020 all women requiring rescheduled appointment have been contacted and expected to have been seen by mid-August

Cervical Screening (SaTH) The service have no cases outstanding requiring colposcopy appointments. They have no back log and are seeing all new direct referrals and GP referrals within the normal national guidelines.

Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm Screening (SaTH) Service restarted on 16/07/2020, prioritising surveillance men. Anticipated to be cleared by end of August at which point men requiring first screens will start to be invited.

Diabetic Eye Screening (MPFT) 20/04/20 screening recommenced for pregnant women and high-risk Digital Surveillance patients. Hospital Eye Services are accepting both urgent and routine referrals

Current status for restoration of services

- Comprehensive set of restoration plans agreed with providers
- Ongoing close working between providers, commissioners and Screening Quality Assurance Service in ensuring the process progresses.
- Being supported at national and regional level with NHSE/I.

Challenges

- COVID19 restrictions of social distancing
- Use of PPE (donning and doffing) and infection control measures have lengthened appointment time per patient and subsequently reduced the capacity
- Workforce has been reduced due to staff shielding and being redeployed elsewhere in the Trusts
- Capacity further in the pathways such as surgical time has also been limiting factor.

Plans have highlighted potential inequalities and trusts have been asked to consider how this will be addressed.

COVID 19 and Impact on Immunisation uptake

GP West Midlands Survey May 2020 to review impact of COVID-19 on immunisation delivery.

Nearly all practices reported that they were continuing to offer childhood and adult/maternal immunisations during COVID as normal or through alternative PCN arrangements
74% reported reduced patient attendance – practices report needing to provide telephone reassurance

school age immunisations (SCHAT)

All delivery stopped on the 19th March 2020. Restored in July 2020 - part service due to redeployed workforce.

Many of the groups who are vulnerable to flu are also more vulnerable to COVID-19. Makes vaccination even more important this year, to help protect those most at risk of flu and protect the health of those who are vulnerable to hospitalisation and death from COVID-19 by ensuring they do not get flu.

Government targets for flu vaccine uptake for 2020/21

Table 1: Vaccine uptake ambitions in 2020 to 2021

| Eligible groups | Uptake ambition |
|--|---------------------|
| Aged 65 years and over | At least 75% |
| In clinical at risk group | At least 75% |
| Pregnant women | At least 75% |
| Children aged 2 and 3 year old | At least 75% |
| All primary school aged children and school year 7 in secondary school | At least 75% |
| Frontline health and social care workers | 100% offer |

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907149/Letter_annualflu_2020_to_2021_update.pdf

Additional eligible groups

Household contacts of those on the NHS Shielded Patient List. Specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation with a shielded person on most days over the winter and therefore for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable

Children of school Year 7 age in secondary schools (those aged 11 on 31 August 2020)

Health and social care workers employed through Direct Payment (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants, to deliver domiciliary care to patients and service users

Those who are in receipt of a **carer's allowance**, or who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill

People living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality. This does not include, for instance, prisons, young offender institutions, university halls of residence, or boarding schools (except where children are of primary school age or secondary school Year 7).

Health and social care staff, employed by a registered residential care/nursing home or registered domiciliary care provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza.

to further extend the vaccine programme in November and December to include the **50-64 year old age group** subject to vaccine supply.

[/assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907149/Letter_annualflu_2020_to_2021_update.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/907149/Letter_annualflu_2020_to_2021_update.pdf)

Work in progress

Strong communications campaign

Consistent messaging across the system to reach all eligible groups including parents and children, to get vaccinated

Communications plan will have focus on those who experience inequalities

Proposal that current weekly systemwide comms meetings focus on winter wellness, including promotion of flu vaccination. TBC

Internal comms – through staff updates, intranet and lock-screens, for eligible staff to get vaccinated

Council staff

Voucher scheme – eligible staff will receive a voucher through their manager to receive flu vaccination at nominated pharmacies

Regional flu group

Shropshire part of the West Midlands group which includes reporting on vaccine uptake, shares good practice and identifies potential barriers.