

Health and Wellbeing Board

Meeting Date: January 2021

COVID-19 update, and Flu Immunisations update

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1. Summary

1.1 This report provides a COVID-19 update and Flu immunisations update which describes; flu vaccination national targets, the communications campaign to raise awareness of eligibility and increase uptake, flu vaccination uptake data and Local Authority flu vaccination progress. COVID-19 updates include latest data, the local response to rising cases, lateral flow testing and the COVID-19 vaccination.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Board notes the contents of the report.

REPORT

3.0 Flu Vaccinations

3.1 Flu vaccination is one of the most effective interventions we have to reduce pressure on the health and social care system this winter. We are currently seeing the impact of COVID-19 on the NHS and social care, and this coming winter we may be faced with co-circulation of COVID-19 and flu. Whilst the seasonal flu vaccine will not protect against COVID-19 infection, it is an effective way to protect those at risk from flu, prevent ill-health and minimise further impact on the NHS and social care. Increasing flu vaccinations uptake is more important than ever this year.

3.2 Table 1 shows vaccination uptake ambitions in 2020/21 for eligible groups. Whilst ambitious, this reflects the need this year to help protect as many qualifying groups as possible. More people are eligible this year including Household contacts of those on the NHS Shielded Patient List and children in year 7. The full list can be found in appendix A.

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

3.3 Flu vaccination uptake in Shropshire County

3.3.1 Providers have worked exceptionally hard to deliver the flu programme in challenging times this year, and with high targets. All should be congratulated for their efforts.

3.3.2 The table below shows GP Practice flu immunisation uptake at week 52 in Shropshire. Shropshire CCG has exceeded the 75% target for the 65 year and over group with a rate of 83.3%, and is the regionally highest for pregnant women at 53.8%. There has been an increase across all eligible age groups in 2020, compared to 2019.

Eligible group	Take up 2020 (%)	Take up 2019 (%)	% increase 2020 compared to 2019
65 years and over	83.3%	71%	+12.3%
Total Combined - 6 months to under 65 years: At-risk	59.8%	44.5%	+15.3%
All pregnant women	53.8%	48.4%	+4.9%
All age 2	66.4%	45.8%	+20.6%
All age 3	69.7%	45.4%	+24.3%
Age 50-64 years (eligible from December)	31.5%	N/A	N/A

3.3.3 All schools have been visited for school flu immunisations. (Primary schools and year 7 children) with a 72% uptake. 'Mop up' school visits and clinics will take place in January. It has been a challenging time for the team with school 'bubbles' and staff isolating.

3.3.4 Eligible groups can also attend Community Pharmacies to receive their flu immunisation, and in Shropshire, 12,975 vaccinations had been given by pharmacists at the 27th December. The total figure for the 2019/20 period was 7,505 vaccinations. Although eligibility for a flu vaccine has been expanded in the 2020 flu period, a significant increase in vaccinations being given is evident.

3.4 Communications

3.4.1 A communications campaign to raise awareness of eligibility, and increase uptake of the free flu vaccination has been in place throughout the 'flu season.':

- The System Communications Task and Finish Group continues to meet weekly, with winter wellness and promotion of flu vaccination reporting being a standard agenda item
- Scheduled social media messages promoting the flu vaccine to eligible groups, were issued via the Council and CCG

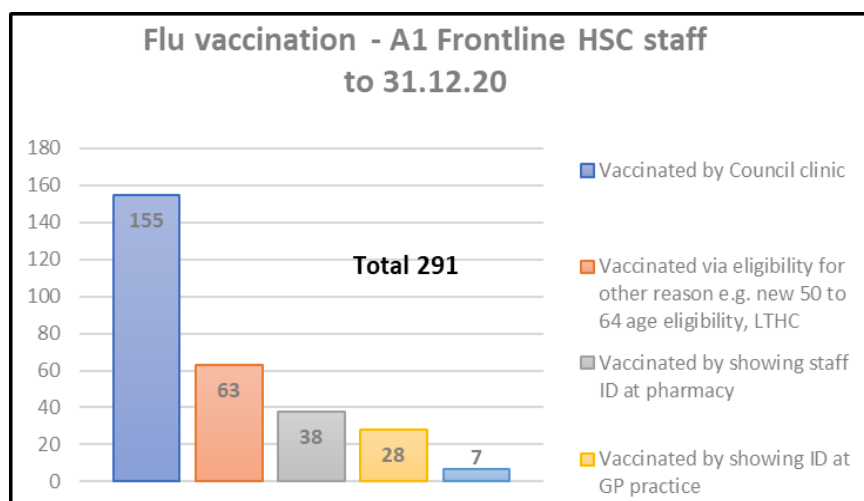
- Press releases were issued via the STP, which included messages of the importance of the vaccine from GPs, pharmacies and the Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin Directors of Public Health
- The Shropshire Council website <https://shropshire.gov.uk/stay-safe-and-well-this-winter/advice-to-help-you-stay-well/> contains information and links to the public flu leaflets including different formats and languages, and is updated regularly

3.5 Local Authority staff flu vaccination

3.5.1 Flu vaccination is a national priority, especially this year in light of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the potential co-circulation of COVID-19 and flu. A national ambition figure of a 100% offer for frontline health and social care workers, has been given for 2020/21.¹

The Local Authority workplace offer and uptake has been scrutinized and reported through regional and local (Shropshire and Telford & Wrekin) flu groups of which Public Health is a member.

3.5.2 A total of 291 frontline Health and Social care staff are known to have been vaccinated at the 31.12.20. A breakdown can be seen in the table below.



3.5.3 A further 140 eligible staff have also received their flu vaccination either through the voucher scheme or by eligibility such as being part of the new 50-64-year age group. Some data is still to be captured.

4.0 COVID-19 Updates

This section provides a brief update on COVID-19

4.1 During the 7-day period from 25.12.20 to 31.12.2020 in Shropshire:

- There were 770 confirmed cases reported
- The 7-day infection rate was therefore at 238.3 per 100,000.
- This records a significant upwards trend from last week's position.
- This compares to 420.1 per 100,000 for the West Midlands and 517.2 per 100,000 for England.
- It is an increase from 101.2 for the week to 24th December.

4.2 To respond to rising cases:

- The local 'Step-Up Shropshire' campaign has been in force, with social media, press releases and interviews on local radio taking place

¹ PHE (2020) Delivering the flu immunisation Programme during the COVID-19 pandemic

- Mobile Testing Units (MTU) are deployed to areas that have seen an increase in case numbers
- The local Health Protection Team with PHE West Midlands is responding to local outbreaks in settings such as schools, care homes and businesses, and provides support and guidance, contact tracing and advice to help prevent further outbreaks
- The Community Response Team continues to work with the public and businesses
- The Council website is updated regularly <https://www.shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/> and includes; information for the public and businesses, resources, and sources of further support and information including mental health and wellbeing
- The COVID-19 helpline and bereavement support line: 0345 678 9028 continue to offer support and advice for Shropshire people

4.3 Lateral flow testing

- 4.3.1 One in three people who have coronavirus never show any symptoms but that does not mean they are not infectious. Lateral flow (rapid) devices (LFDs) are one of the tools being used to help to detect and fight COVID-19. The tests can rapidly turn around results within an hour without the need for processing the swabs in a lab.
- 4.3.1 Frontline and key workers living Shropshire will be able to take rapid COVID-19 testing, as part of the Council's strategy to identify more positive cases, reduce the spread of infection and protect lives and livelihoods.
- 4.3.2 Although the country is in lockdown, there will be people who can't work from home. Those individuals, who do not have symptoms, are encouraged to have Lateral Flow Rapid tests up to 2 times per week (or once every 4 days).
- 4.3.3 The test, which has already been rolled out to select groups including university students, social care staff and care home visitors, is for people who do not have symptoms.
- 4.3.4 The sites are in Shrewsbury and shortly also in Craven Arms. More information can be found in the [Council press release](#).

4.4 COVID-19 vaccinations

- 4.4.1 The NHS COVID-19 vaccination process has started, with the first vaccination in the county having taken place on the 8 December 2020 at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital Hub. This hub is vaccinating people aged 80 and over, as well as care home workers and frontline healthcare staff at risk, identified as priority groups.
- 4.4.2 The vaccine will be offered to more people and at other locations as soon as possible. A Local Vaccination Centre is now operating at Bridgnorth Medical Centre being delivered by GPs from the South East Shropshire Primary Care Network.
- 4.4.3 Care home residents are also now receiving the vaccine in Shropshire, with the ambition that all older person care home residents and staff will have had the vaccination by the end January.
- 4.4.4 The public are being asked 'please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, we will contact you.' The priority for vaccination can be seen in the table below:

Table 1: Priority groups for vaccination, recommended by JCVI

Priority group	Risk group
1	Residents in a care home for older adults Staff working in care homes for older adults
2	All those 80 years of age and over Frontline Health and social care workers
3	All those 75 years of age and over
4	All those 70 years of age and over Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those aged under 16 years)
5	All those 65 years of age and over
6	Adults aged 16 to 65 years in an at-risk group (Appendix 4)
7	All those 60 years of age and over
8	All those 55 years of age and over
9	All those 50 years of age and over

5.0 Risk Assessment and Opportunities Appraisal

(NB This will include the following: Risk Management, Human Rights, Equalities, Community, Environmental consequences and other Consultation)

There are no Human Rights, Environmental Consequences, Community or Equality issues identified with the provision of these updates.

6.0 Financial Implications

There are no financial implications that need to be considered with this update

7.0 Additional Information

None

8.0 Conclusions

The will between all local providers to work closely together and increase uptake of the flu vaccination for eligible groups this year, is evidenced through the increase in uptake figures, and all involved should be commended for their efforts.

Covid-19 continues to be a changing and challenging situation for everyone, and work will continue in response to this including; the 'Step up Shropshire' campaign, testing availability, the response of the Health Protection Team and support for those who need it through the COVID helpline.

List of Background Papers (This MUST be completed for all reports, but does not include items containing exempt or confidential information)
Cabinet Member (Portfolio Holder) Cllr. Dean Carroll Portfolio Holder for Adult Services, Climate Change, Health and Housing
Local Member
Appendices None

Appendix 1 – Eligible groups for free flu vaccination

Usual groups	Additional groups for 2020/21
Pregnant women	
Children aged 2-3 (on 31 August 2019) and all primary school aged children	Children of school Year 7 age in secondary schools (those aged 11 on 31 August 2020)
Those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk 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
Those aged 65 years and over	Aim to further extend the vaccine programme in November and December to include the 50-64-year-old age group subject to vaccine supply
The main carer of an older or disabled person	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
Those living in a residential or nursing home	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 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
.	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