

Who is eligible for a free flu jab?

A quick guide for GPs and community pharmacists

Adults

- ✓ aged 65 years or over (including those aged 65 by 31 March 2021)

Children

- ✓ aged two and three years old (on 31 August 2020) - at GP practices only
- ✓ aged 4 to 11 year olds (to be done in school)

Vulnerable groups

(aged from six months - 64 years of age) with the following conditions*:

- chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as asthma (needing steroid inhaler or tablets), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
- chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five
- chronic liver disease
- chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease
- a learning disability
- diabetes
- splenic dysfunction
- asplenia
- a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV / AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
- morbidly obese (defined as BMI of 40 and above)
- ✓ all pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)
- ✓ people living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities

Shielding households

- ✓ members of a household where an individual is on the NHS Shielded Patient List, or individuals who expect to share living accommodation with a shielded patient on most days over the winter

Carers

- ✓ individuals who receive a carer's allowance, or who are the main carer of an older or disabled person

Health & social care staff

who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients / residents / clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza, including:

- ✓ registered residential care / nursing home or registered domiciliary care provider employees
- ✓ voluntary managed hospice provider employees
- ✓ health and social care workers employed through Direct Payments (personal budgets) and / or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants

Employers are responsible for vaccinating frontline healthcare staff and any social care workers not included in the above definition.

Providers will be advised when 50 to 64 year olds not in these groups will become eligible and can be offered the flu vaccine. However, vaccination for 50 to 64 year olds in clinical risk groups should not be delayed.

* Note to healthcare professionals - the list above is not exhaustive, and the healthcare professional should apply clinical judgement to take into account the risk of flu exacerbating any underlying disease that a patient may have, as well as the risk of serious illness from flu itself.

