

HEALTH AND WELL-BEING BOARD

5 DECEMBER 2017

FLU VACCINATION UPDATE

Board Sponsor

Frances Howie, Director of Public Health, Chair of the Health Protection Sub Group of the Board

Author

Dr Kathryn Cobain, Public Health Consultant

Priorities

Good Mental Health and Well-being throughout life
Being Active at every age
Reducing harm from Alcohol at all ages
Other (specify below)

(Please click below
then on down arrow)

No
No
No
Health
Protection/System
Resilience

Groups of particular interest

Children & young people
Communities & groups with poor health outcomes
People with learning disabilities

Yes
Yes
Yes

Safeguarding

Impact on Safeguarding Children
If yes please give details

No

Impact on Safeguarding Adults
If yes please give details

No

Item for Decision, Consideration or Information

Information and assurance

Recommendation

1. The Health Protection sub-Group asks the Health and Well-being Board to:
 - a) Note, support, advocate and cascade the changes in the flu vaccination programme within their organisations; and
 - b) Commit as organisations to working together to improve flu vaccination uptake within health and social care workers and in the eligible population.

Background

2. Many people with flu show no symptoms, meaning healthcare workers who feel fit and healthy can unwittingly infect vulnerable patients. Getting vaccinated is the best way to stop the spread of influenza and prevent deaths. It can also ease pressures that a heavy flu outbreak would place on services such as doctors' surgeries and busy hospital wards, like those seen recently in Australia and New Zealand. NHS staff are already offered the vaccination for free to protect patients and the public.

3. The national programme for influenza (Flu) immunisation is commissioned by NHS England and provided through General Practice (GP), Pharmacy and School aged immunisation service (SAIS). This programme is intended to reduce the circulation of flu, decrease medical complications and admissions related to flu and increase system resilience to winter pressures within the NHS and Social Care.

4. The flu vaccination has been available since the end of September and uptake data is being collected from all sources mentioned above. The uptake data from last year are complete and indicate a downward trend in both over 65 year olds and at risk individuals in Worcestershire having their immunisation. Worcestershire remains above the national England average but the trend for a decline in uptake is of concern.

Population vaccination coverage	7a Baseline	Standard ²	Key			Geography	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2014/15	2015/16
Flu (aged 65+) (%)	72.7	75	<75		>=75	Worcestershire	73.3	74.8	74.0	74.3	74.2	72.6
						England	72.8	74.0	73.4	73.2	72.7	71.0
Flu (at risk individuals) (%)	50.3	75	<55		>=55	Worcestershire	52.2	53.7	52.3	54.9	54.1	49.4
						England	50.4	51.6	51.3	52.3	50.3	45.1
Flu (2-4 years old) (%)			<40	40-65	>=65	Worcestershire					38.0	39.1
						England					37.6	34.4

Source: PHOF, PHE

¹ National baseline based on the 2016-17 Public Health Functions Agreement

² Standard is the clinical standard required to control disease and ensure patient safety.

5. Last year both Worcestershire Acute Trust and Worcestershire Health and Care Trust achieved significant progress in health care worker immunisations with both organisations achieving coverage of around 75% of the frontline workforce. This was a significant achievement attributed in part to the availability of a flu vaccination commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN). NHS England this winter are also introducing other measures to assist with winter pressures including writing to doctors, nurses and other healthcare workers to remind them of their professional duty to protect patients by being vaccinated. The Health Protection sub group (HPG) of the board raised concerns to the Health and Well-being Board in their annual report in July 2017 that in social care there was both a lack of information available to inform the group on uptake flu vaccination of care staff and at that point vaccinating care staff was the sole responsibility of their employer.

6. The HPG notes with pleasure and wishes to raise the awareness of this with the board and publically for the Worcestershire care population that within the last two weeks NHS England has notified partners of a late addition to the NHS Flu programme to assist with winter pressures and to ensure that there is broader system resilience as this is recognised to impact on the NHS during the pressured

winter period. NHS England has extended free jabs to up to more than one million care home workers and has set aside £10m to fund it.

7. This addition means that 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, meaning those patients/clients in a clinical risk group or aged 65 years and over are now eligible within the general vaccination programme to attain a free vaccination without having to navigate their occupational health systems. This has been noted as a barrier in smaller organisations, which applies to many care homes and domiciliary care organisations.

8. Most community pharmacies and many GP practices will provide the vaccinations. It is recommended that staff contact their community pharmacy or GP practice to check they are providing the service, before attending. For GP practices, this has to be the registered practice of the carer. Eligible staff need to take appropriate ID which shows their name and their employer such as an ID badge, letter from their employer or a recent pay slip.

Legal, Financial and HR Implications

9. No implications identified

Privacy Impact Assessment

10. No issues identified

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. An Equality Relevance Screening has been completed in respect of these recommendations. The screening did not identify any potential Equality considerations requiring further consideration during implementation.

12. However, increasing the immunisation of the social care and health care workforce will be a protective factor in reducing the vulnerability associated with age and disability.

Contact Points

County Council Contact Points

County Council: 01905 763763

Worcestershire Hub: 01905 765765

Specific Contact Points for this report

Name Dr Kathryn Cobain Job Title Public Health Consultant (Health Protection Lead)

Tel: 01905 845 863

Email: KCobain@worcestershire.gov.uk

Supporting Information

- Appendix A - Service specification for pharmacy add on cohort
- Appendix B - Enhanced service specification for nursing and residential care homes
- Appendix C - NHS England letter notifying changes to programme

Background Papers

In the opinion of the proper officer (in this case the Director of Public Health) there are no background papers relating to the subject matter of this report: