



London seasonal influenza bulletin December 2015

The pan-London seasonal influenza implementation group aims to ensure that all relevant organisations are kept up-to-date with developments around seasonal flu in London. This bulletin is jointly produced by Public Health England and NHS England (NHS E) (London Region) to ensure key messages and communications are aligned across all boroughs and we are taking a joined-up approach to deliver the seasonal flu programme. Please share this bulletin with your teams.

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1. KEY MESSAGES

- Influenza activity remains at low levels in week 48 (ending 29 November 2015)
- In week 48, there were further increases in a number of respiratory indicators in children aged <5 year. These increases are in line with reports of increasing respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) activity.
- Three new acute respiratory outbreaks have been reported in the past seven days. One from a hospital testing positive for RSV, one from a care home and another from a school with no test results available.
- In week 48, overall weekly influenza-like illness GP consultations was low in England (9.9 per 100,000), Wales (4.8 per 100,000), Scotland (5.3 per 100,000) and Northern Ireland (18.0 per 100,000).
- Weekly influenza-like illness consultations rates also remain low in week 48 through the GP In Hours Surveillance system
- Up to week 48, 2015, in 73.9% GP practices reporting weekly to Immform, the provisional proportion of people in England who had received the 2015/16 influenza vaccine in targeted groups was as follows: 38.1% in under 65 years in a clinical risk group, 37.0% in pregnant women, 66.3% in 65+ year olds, 28.4% in all 2 year olds, 29.5% in all 3 year olds and 24.0% in all 4 year olds
- Provisional data from the first monthly collection of influenza vaccine uptake by frontline healthcare workers show 32.4% were vaccinated by 31 October 2015 from 95.1% of Trusts, compared to 36.8% vaccinated in the previous season by 31 October 2014.
- Initial reporting of flu data held locally by healthcare providers in places of detention appears to show higher uptake than that being reported on Immform. This suggests there are some data reconciliation issues which need to be sorted. NHS E will continue to monitor the data throughout the season. Thank you to all providers for your ongoing support.



2. GP IN-HOURS SYNDROMIC SURVEILLANCE – UP TO WEEK 48 (ending 29 November 2015).

According to the GP In-Hours Syndromic Surveillance System, in the past week the ILI GP consultation rate in England increased from 5.7 to 6.2 consultations per 100,000. The rate in London increased from 9.1 to 9.8 ILI GP consultations per 100,000. For London, the rate was lower than that observed last year (12.8 per 100,000), as well as in 2013/2014 (11.0 per 100,000).

The ILI GP consultation rates in London increased in 14 of the 32 local authorities (LAs). Hammersmith & Fulham and Westminster reported zero consultations.



London Weekly Flu
Bulletin Week 48.pdf

3. FLU SURVEILLANCE

PHE weekly national influenza reports represent the most comprehensive and detailed assessment of the current situation. They will be of relevance to health and social care professionals, health planners, journalists and interested members of the public. The reports can be found at: www.gov.uk/government/publications/weekly-national-flu-reports

Seasonal Flu vaccination uptake (at risk groups) – Week 43

The provisional end of October 2015 cumulative uptake data for England on influenza vaccinations given from 1 September 2015 to 31 October 2015 has now been published on the GOV.UK website:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-gp-patients-1-september-2015-to-31-october-2015>

4. VACCINE SUPPLY

Availability of Fluenz Tetra® and FluMist® Quadrivalent

There will be sufficient Fluenz Tetra® and FluMist® Quadrivalent stock to fulfil the requirements of the vaccination programme.

Contacts

NHS England (London): immunisation-submissions.london@nhs.net
PHE: Viv Cleary Influenza Lead: Vivien.Cleary@PHE.gov.uk



Fluenz Tetra® and FluMist® Quadrivalent are pharmaceutically identical and FluMist® Quadrivalent is fully licensed for use in the UK (in accordance with the Fluenz Tetra® licence).

It is important to note FluMist® Quadrivalent must not be used after the 24th February 2016. This does not affect the safety, quality or efficacy of the batches. Further Vaccine updates will be published in the January bulletin as well as the ImmForm news item.

Please contact vaccinesupply@phe.gov.uk if you have any questions or concerns.

5. COMMISSIONING – TARGETED GROUPS

Many thanks for all your endeavours to get adults vaccinated with before the festive period. The next few weeks will be an important time to target and persuade those people, on your long term condition registers, who have not yet attended your clinics. We are especially keen to get people with mental health illness, learning disabilities, carers and under 65s, to have their flu vaccine over the coming weeks.

NHS E (London Region) has commissioned services to offer the following at risk groups the seasonal flu jab:

- Those aged 65 and over
- Children and adults in clinical 'at risk' groups (see [Green Book](#))
- Pregnant women including those in 'at risk' groups
- Housebound patients
- Frontline health care workers
- Carers

5.1 Flu Vaccination Open Access SLA

NHS E understands a few practices may have some doses of flu vaccine left-over into December 2015 – January 2016. Bearing in mind you'll need some seasonal flu vaccines for pregnant women until end of March 2016, if your practice does indeed find it has un-used seasonal flu vaccines please consider targeting non-registered Londoners, under the Flu Vaccination Open Access SLA. The SLA allows you to offer local hostels, homeless centres, travellers, refugees and individuals the seasonal flu vaccine if they are at risk. For enquiries, please email immunisation-submissions.london@nhs.net.



GP Access FLU SLA
2015-16.docx.pdf

[Contacts](#)

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5.2 Community pharmacy delivering seasonal flu and pneumococcal polysaccharide Vaccinations

NHS E (London Region) has re-commissioned the community pharmacy vaccination service to support the seasonal flu vaccination programme. It is also recognised that a significant number of people who are eligible for the seasonal flu vaccination are also eligible for a vaccination against pneumonia (using the pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine, PPV). This vaccine was added to the pharmacy service for 2015/16 and pharmacists were asked to co-vaccinate where appropriate and when possible, making every contact count. To date, community pharmacists delivered over 133,000 flu and PPV vaccinations. Also, the London Pharmacy Committee in North East London has setup a 'Stay Well this Winter' campaign in shopping centres.

5.3 Maternity SLA

NHS E (London Region) is working with the maternity units at Lewisham & Greenwich NHS Trust, Barts Health, Imperial NHS Trust, Barnet and Royal Free Hospital and North Middlesex NHS Trust to enable them to build an infrastructure to deliver vaccinations to pregnant women (flu and pertussis) as well as BCG and Hep B to neonates. This work will help build a resilient system going forward so that any woman using these maternity services will have a greater choice of where she can be vaccinated. Pregnant women are still eligible for their flu and pertussis vaccinations at their GP surgery and can also visit their pharmacy for a flu jab. For enquiries, please email Rehana Ahmed on rehanaahmed@nhs.net.

5.4 Housebound patients

NHS E (London Region) has invited all local nursing services to sign-up to the District Nursing SLA to support the seasonal flu vaccination programme. The SLA provides for housebound patients who are eligible for flu vaccinations on the District Nursing caseload and well as those who have been identified as housebound by the patients' registered general practice, including care homes. Please discuss this with your local community nursing service lead. Alternatively contact Bernadette Johnson: Bernadette.johnson@nhs.net for further information.

5.5 Frontline health and social care workers

NHS organisations should offer flu immunisation to all employees directly involved in delivering care.

According to Flu winter plan 2015-16 the definition of FCHW "healthcare workers with direct patient contact". However NHS England (London Region) offers free flu vaccines to all FHCW that are directly employed by NHS or by NHS provider. NHS England (London

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Region) don't offer flu vaccinations to care home worker as they not employed by NHS or NHS provider but these employers can arrange for community pharmacies in London to give the Private PGD Flu vaccine at NHS-tariff.

NHS Employers provide advice, guidance and campaign materials to support you in your local staff flu vaccination campaign. Follow the link for further information: [NHS Employers has launched their Flu Fighters campaign](#). Twitter @NHSFlufighter.

You can also listen to the 2015 flu fighter tune gifted by a talent songwriter to support our campaign [here](#).

The seasonal flu survey for frontline healthcare workers

The seasonal flu survey 2015/16 for November 2015 is open from **Tuesday 1 December 2015** until **Wednesday 9 December 2015** for all NHS Trusts and GPs and **Friday 11 December 2015** for local NHS England teams. Data entered during this time is **cumulative** and covers ALL influenza vaccinations administered to frontline HCWs between **1 September 2015 and 30 November 2015** (inclusive of both dates).

Please submit your data by the closing date to avoid being listed as a non-responder. If you have any other queries, please email HCWvac@phe.gov.uk.

6. PROVIDER ASSURANCE

NHS England (London region), CCGs and Local Authorities flu leads meet on a monthly basis to discuss flu vaccine uptake performance and set priorities for the coming month.

7. FLU IMMUNISATION PAYMENT PROTOCOL

Please submit your data on CQRS between the 5th and 23rd of every month. This will ensure that you will get paid 2 months in arrears (i.e. submissions from April will reflect in the June statement). A common reason why practices do not get paid is failure to submit data between this timeframe. PMS and APMS practices receive payment mid-month while GMS practices receive payment end of month.

- a) Submit all your CQRS submission payment queries and claims to [**immunisation-submissions.london@nhs.net**](mailto:immunisation-submissions.london@nhs.net).
- b) Please be advised to use the NHS Immunisation Payments Query Form to make enquiries about your claim(s). You can get this form if you email the [**immunisation-submissions.london@nhs.net**](mailto:immunisation-submissions.london@nhs.net). In addition you must send us a screenshot of your clinical audit report, which can be found on your clinical system (an excel spreadsheet is not acceptable). All technical queries relating to CQRS must be addressed to [**support@cqrs.co.uk**](mailto:support@cqrs.co.uk).

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8. WEB LINKS

Annual Flu Programme 2015/16

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-plan-2015-to-2016>

Service specification for delivery of the seasonal influenza immunisation programme and the seasonal influenza programme for children can be found via:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/public-health-commissioning-in-the-nhs-2015-to-2016

NHS Employers 'flu fighter' campaign:

<http://www.nhsemployers.org/HealthyWorkplaces/StaffFluVaccination/Pages/seasonal-flu-campaign.aspx>

The Green Book chapter online:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/influenza-the-green-book-chapter-19>

The Vaccine Update Bulletin is available via:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update>

Copies of the NHS England (London) authorised Patient Group Directions (PGDs) for seasonal flu and Fluenz® can be found via:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/commissioning/wp-content/uploads/sites/12/2015/09/pgd-intramsclr-inactv-flu-vacc-sec.pdf>

Frontline healthcare workers vaccine uptake and data collection tool can be accessed via:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/462884/HCW_Tool_User_Guide_201516_Final.pdf

The user guides for the ImmForm All Trusts Survey and Collection Tool for AT's and GP's can be found at the following links:

All Trusts Survey:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seasonal-influenza-frontline-healthcare-workers-vaccine-uptake-survey-data-collection-guidance>

Data Collection Tool (ATs/GPs):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/seasonal-influenza-frontline-healthcare-workers-vaccine-uptake-data-collection-tool-guidance>

If you have technical queries related to the ImmForm website, please contact helpdesk@immform.org.uk.

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