

Tees Valley CCG Flu Vaccination up date

In the past primary care has been called upon to provide emergency vaccination to reduce the spread of disease and it now is apparent that a similar scale of emergency vaccination will be needed from primary care, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. This now may well include significantly expanding the seasonal flu vaccination programme, to include other cohorts of patients in particular the “not at risk” patients in the age range 50 – 64 years old

The current COVID-19 pandemic poses a specific set of challenges to achieving high volume throughput. For example, enhanced standards of infection prevention and control will be needed, and larger spaces may be necessary to maintain safe social distancing. Premises normally used to undertake vaccination (GP surgeries, pharmacies, schools) are likely to be impacted by any restrictions of social distancing. Creating a safe flow of patients to achieve the high throughput to vaccinate large numbers may be difficult and impossible in some.

In the context of social distancing, use of personal protective equipment and increased time necessary for immunisers to prepare for each patient, it is likely that additional time will be required.

Regional ICS (Integrated Care System) response - North East and North Cumbria

The regional ICS response to the extra pressure on providers to deliver the flu programme in times of Covid has led to the setting up of an ICS level - North East & North Cumbria (NENC) System Flu Board

The aim of the board is to lead, coordinate and deliver assurance across the NENC system to maximise delivery of influenza vaccination to the eligible population in 2020/21.

This process will be enabled by a series of task and finish groups

- Covid safe delivery models
- Specialist settings
- Data & digital
- Social care settings
- Healthcare workers
- Demand & capacity
- Communications & marketing
- PPE requirements

All the groups are due to report out at the end of August and all relevant information will be shared with all relevant providers locally via our CCG flu co-ordinator

Local ICP (Integrated Care Partnership) response

Tees Valley CCG has now convened a local Flu vaccination delivery board; the aim of the local board is to provide support to practices and facilitate sharing of best practice and novel flu vaccination delivery models.

Members of the local board represent all relevant providers in terms of flu vaccination delivery

- CCG medical director
- CCG flu co-ordinator

- CCG care home lead
- CCG project manager
- LMC and LPC representatives
- GP and PCN clinical director representation
- Practice nurse representative
- Practice Managers
- Local PHE lead
- Community nursing reps from STHFT and UHNT
- Local school nursing lead
- Reps from GP federations
- NECS comms team

Currently we are developing a robust flu plan to ensure we are able to understand all the strands of this year's flu vaccination programme, and gain an understanding of where potential gaps or risks may exist. Our themes cover similar strands to the regional T&F groups. We are keen to share our findings and give assurances to all providers that there is a local plan to ensure all current at risk groups are covered during this coming flu vaccination programme.

As a group we are keen to support the delivery of this year's programme, and understand what support practices need to deliver to their at risk groups to get to the aspirational 75% coverage.

Clearly there are still more flu vaccination programme updates due nationally and the board will consider these in the ever evolving local flu plan

Delivering the flu programme at practice or PCN level?

Practices across the Tees Valley CCG were recently asked to complete audit information of vaccines ordered, and insights as to whether flu vaccination plans are planned for practice delivery or at scale PCN delivery. There is clearly a mix of models planned across the CCG.

The local flu vaccination board would be keen to learn more about individual practice or PCN plans, and is in a position to share solutions to issues that others may be currently experiencing in their planning process

Practices will be asked further if they are willing to share practice or PCN plans in order to assist sharing best practice

Delivering Mass Vaccinations during COVID-19 - A Logistical Guide for General Practice

The RCGP has produced this document to assist GPs, lead practice nurses, Practice Managers, Clinical Directors, GP Federations, PCNs and CCGs/Health Boards in understanding the practicalities and challenges of delivering mass vaccination programmes in a context when COVID-19 remains in general circulation. It sets out key areas that will need to be considered, offers possible solutions and highlights areas where risk assessments are required, particularly where these may differ from normal practice.

https://elearning.rcgp.org.uk/pluginfile.php/149506/mod_page/content/75/Mass%20Vaccination%20at%20a%20time%20of%20COVID%20V2.0.pdf