

EXTRACT FROM THE 2014-15 FLU PLAN

Groups eligible for the flu vaccination

Flu vaccinations are currently offered free of charge to the following groups:

- people aged 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2015)
- all pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)
- all those aged two, three, and four years old (but not five years or older) on 1 September 2014
- all school-aged children who are part of the pilot childhood programme
- people with a serious medical condition such as:
 - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis
 - chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
 - chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or 5
 - chronic liver disease
 - chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease
 - diabetes
 - splenic dysfunction
- a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
- 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, or university halls of residence
- people who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill

The list above is not exhaustive and decisions should be based on a practitioner's clinical judgement. Consideration should also be given to the vaccination of household contacts of immunocompromised individuals, specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation on most days over the winter and therefore for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable.

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