

Dear Colleague

SCOTTISH INFLUENZA VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2015-16

1. This communication is to provide confirmation of the key elements of the forthcoming 2015-16 seasonal and childhood flu vaccination programmes.

2. **For 2015/16, target groups for the vaccination programme are in line with last year.**

3. Specifically, the programme this year will offer vaccination to:

- **Adults aged 65 and over and children and adults (aged 6 months and over) with “at-risk” health conditions*** - see the [Green Book Chapter](#) for the full list of these.
- **All children aged 2-5** (not yet at school) – to be vaccinated in primary care. This year (a one-off agreement), the Scottish Government is funding a centralised call-up letter to parents of pre-school children aged 2 and above to invite them to contact their GP practice to make an appointment.
- **All primary school aged children** (primary 1 to primary 7). The primary delivery method will be in school and consent packs will be distributed to the schools for each child to take home.

**From the Chief Medical Officer
Dr Catherine Calderwood MA
MRCOG FRCP(Edin)**

14 May 2015

SGHD/CMO(2015)9

Addresses

For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards
Medical Directors, NHS Boards
Directors of Nursing & Midwifery,
NHS Boards
Directors of Pharmacy
Directors of Public Health
General Practitioners
Practice Nurses
School Nurses
Immunisation Co-ordinators
CPHMs
Scottish Prison Service
Scottish Ambulance Service
Occupational Health Leads

For information

Infectious Disease Consultants
Consultant Paediatricians
Consultant Physicians
Consultants in Dental Public Health
Dental Lead Officers
Health Protection Scotland
Chief Executive, NHS Health Scotland
NHS 24
Health Visitors
Scottish General Practitioners Committee
Local Authority Chief Executives
and Directors of Education
Proprietors of Independent Schools
Scottish Council of Independent Schools

Further Enquiries

Policy Issues

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2014-15 Uptake Rates

4. Provisional uptake data (to week 13 - the last weekly update available) for the seasonal and childhood flu programme in 2014-15 are as follows:

Eligible Groups	Uptake	Target
Over 65s	76.3%	75%
Under 65 at-risk	54.0%	75%
Pregnant Women (without risk factors)	49.5%	-
Pregnant Women (with risk factors)	65.0%	-
2-5 year olds (not yet at school) – vaccinated at GP practice	56.4%	60%*
Schoolchildren aged 5-11 (P1-P7) – vaccinated at school	71.8%	75%

* this target will rise to 65% for the 2-5 year olds in the forthcoming programme (2015-16).

5. This year we are aiming for continued improvement in uptake across the programme, with a particular focus on 2 key groups (the under 65s at risk and young children aged 2-5 years who are not yet at school). We hope that the centralised call up letter for parents will help achieve the latter.

Further Information

6. A fuller CMO letter will issue towards the summer to confirm further operational details, in particular in relation to:

- arrangements for children who miss their school appointment;
- the updated green book chapter, which will include advice on egg allergy in children (for administration of Fluenz Tetra).

7. In the meantime please refer to previous guidance on the [seasonal flu programme](#) for advice on key issues such as vaccine storage and supply. In addition the [Immunisation Scotland](#) website provides advice on influenza for the public, and is a source for leaflets and posters associated with the programme.

8. Finally, I am very grateful for the ongoing support and commitment of all staff involved in continuing to implement this challenging and valuable public health programme.

Yours sincerely

Catherine Calderwood

DR CATHERINE CALDERWOOD