

Vaccination Update: Flu Campaign and Phase 3 COVID

Introduction

In addition to the delivery of the flu campaign all practices and PCNs have opt-ed in to the COVID-19 vaccination programme: phase 3 2021/22 Enhanced Service which went live on the 6th September with sites able to draw down vaccine following pharmaceutical assurance and final site assurance visits following the receipt of the full supply inventory list.

The Phase 3 Enhanced service comprises two elements:

- an 'evergreen' offer to maintain the delivery of COVID-19 second doses to those receiving their first dose over the summer and to offer new first and second doses of the vaccine to all eligible patients, and
- a booster campaign for eligible patients following confirmation from the JCVI.

The PCNs will be supported in the delivery of the vaccinations through access to a centrally resourced NWL Roving Team and with integrated delivery with system partners including CLCH as part of on-going efforts to tackle inequalities through roving models.

In addition to the practice based delivery a number of local pharmacy sites have submitted expressions of interest to NHSE to participate in the Phase 3 programme with centrally managed assurance and mobilisation of these sites.

The learning and experiences from the delivery of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the vaccination programme have informed the planning for the Phase 3 campaign and will continue to be considered as part of an iterative approach to increasing the vaccine uptake in the borough.

Learning & Successes from Phase 1 & 2

The H&F vaccination response has been characterised by joint working between health and local authority teams to collectively develop and deliver plans. Whilst this has been a key aspect of the wider programme this has been particularly evident in the recent rapid development of plans for the SEN 12-15 cohort. The early implementation of the vaccination clinics at the Stephen Wiltshire Centre received a number of positive responses from those attending and have been identified a good practice across NWL. This joint working will continue throughout the next phase of the response to maintain the positive outcomes from the partnership approach.

The current vaccination rates for the LBHF resident and H&F GP Registered populations are shown in Table 1 at the end of this paper.

In addition to the large scale delivery of vaccinations through the PCN sites and mass vaccination site at the Novotel locally significant effort has been put into pop-up vaccination initiatives to provide access to vaccination for specific cohorts or in wards without a regular vaccination site, examples of these include:

- Regular Vaccination Pop-Up at the Claybrook Centre in conjunction with West London Health Trust colleagues to support those with serious mental illness.
- Roving Vaccination Bus and Park Pop-Ups – a rotating series of pop-up events have provided a successful route to vaccination in certain parts of the borough through being closer to residents and facilitating easier access. Planning for Phase 3 will build on this model as part of the continued commitment to tackle inequalities.

- Pharmacies have been an important part of the vaccination programme to date providing a high number of vaccinations and offering an alternative, community location and a complimentary provision with trusted healthcare staff. Whilst the pharmacy programme is centrally organised by NHSE there has been a strong push from health and local authority teams to request additional pharmacy sites to support an increase in access both through anticipated additional hours of operation and a wider geographic coverage.

Vaccination Eligibility

- Flu
The flu vaccination programme expanded last year due to COVID-19 to include an offer to anyone 50 and over, which will continue in 2021/22. In addition, the programme will also be extended this year to four additional cohorts in secondary school so that all those from years 7 to year 11 will be offered vaccination.

The eligible population for the 2021/22 flu vaccine will be:

- All children aged 2 to 15 on 31st August 2021 (but not 16 years or older)
 - those aged 6 months to under 50 years in clinical risk groups;
 - pregnant women;
 - those aged 50 years and over;
 - those in long-stay residential care homes;
 - carers;
 - locum GPs;
 - close contacts of immunocompromised individuals;
 - frontline health and social care staff employed by:
 - registered residential care or nursing home;
 - registered domiciliary care provider;
 - a voluntary managed hospice provider;
 - Direct Payment (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants;
 - and who are registered with the GP practice;
 - those living in:
 - long-stay facilities;
 - nursing homes;
 - other long-stay health or social care facilities;
 - a housebound patient
- COVID
The Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccination campaign comprises a number of confirmed cohorts along with additional vaccination groups which will be mobilised pending the confirmation from the JCVI and national programme teams.

The confirmed cohorts comprise:

- All 18+ who require a new first or second dose of the vaccine as part of an extension of the Phase 1 and Phase 2 programme (the 'evergreen' offer)
- Those age 16-17 who require a single dose of the vaccine
- At-Risk 12-15 Year Olds / 12-15 Year Old Household Contacts of Immunocompromised Individuals

- Immuno-suppressed / compromised age 12+: Third dose to be offered – currently the ask is for both acute and practices to identify individuals eligible under the definitions from the JCVI for which searches are due by end of September. Once identified the third dose should be offered with consideration for the optimal timing and interaction with any treatment but needs to be at least 8 weeks after their second dose.

Planned additional cohorts subject to national guidance are:

- All 12-15 Year Olds - whilst a single dose of vaccine for this cohort has been recommended by the Chief Medical Officers at the time of writing this is awaiting a decision from ministers of whether to accept the recommendation. In preparation discussions have already been started to arrange a programme of vaccination through schools.
- Booster campaign – although the eligibility for the booster doses is still under review interim guidance suggests this will be based in two stages:
 - Stage 1:
 - adults aged 16 years and over who are immunosuppressed
 - those living in residential care homes for older adults
 - all adults aged 70 years or over
 - adults aged 16 years and over who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable
 - frontline health and social care workers
 - Stage 2:
 - all adults aged 50 years and over
 - adults aged 16 to 49 years who are in an influenza or COVID-19 at-risk group. (Refer to the Green Book for details of at-risk groups)
 - adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

Delivery Plans

- PCN / Practices
 - In line with current JCVI guidance, and in the absence of confirmation of co-administration with the covid-19 booster, we are anticipating that all our PCNs will be running GP Practice based flu clinics for their ambulatory eligible cohorts as soon as they have received their vaccine stock from their supplier. Vaccine deliveries (for adults) commenced this week and are staggered throughout September, October and November according to the arrangements agreed between provider and supplier.
 - Some GP practices in H&F borough have begun administering flu vaccines to their over 65s this week following delivery of the vaccine. Whilst we are not aware of any delays locally there have been some reports of delays to the deliveries due to the road freight challenges so will continue to monitor this over the coming weeks.
 - GP practices are able to order child flu vaccines (LAIV, nasal sprays) supplied by PHE from the nationally procured ImmForm system for their eligible 2-3 years old children. They have been encouraged to order vaccines as soon as possible and begin vaccinating this cohort while they wait for adult vaccine supply to be delivered.
 - PHE will also offer two inactivated vaccines, for children in clinical risk groups for whom LAIV is contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable, or eligible healthy children

who object to LAIV on the grounds of its porcine gelatine content. These vaccines are expected to be available to order from ImmForm by mid-September.

- PCN COVID vaccination delivery is currently being mobilised to complete the additional pharmaceutical assurance and awaiting delivery of necessary equipment from national supply but aiming for all sites to be 'live' by the end of September in preparation for anticipated decision on the booster campaign.
 - PCN delivery of COVID vaccination is intended to be primarily focused on 'booster' element to provide vaccination to the highest risk cohorts and utilise trusted relationships with patient but to provide consistent access to vaccination for other cohorts during the duration of the programme.
 - While our PCNs wait on the final guidance from the JCVI, they have been encouraged to co-promote both flu vaccination and covid-19 vaccination (booster or otherwise) during every contact with eligible patients.
- Pharmacies
 - As noted in the learning from phases 1 and 2 locally we have pushed for an increased number of pharmacies to facilitate local access and offer vaccine in convenient locations at known and trusted location within the community.
 - This also reflects the learning from pop-ups that convenience and 'walk-in' ability are advantageous aspects to tackling low uptake so all H&F sites have been added to the request for consideration for first wave of approval and bring H&F representation up compared to other boroughs.
 - Across H&F this represented 14 pharmacies who submitted expressions of interest and we are expecting confirmation of successful sites imminently. Whilst due to the logistical challenges of mobilising all sites it is unlikely that all sites will be operational we believe that the early requests mean that NWL will have a strong representation and high proportion of the sites across London.
 - Similarly, due to the limitations of the logistical supply chain and ability to co-ordinate weekly vaccine deliveries it is unlikely that more pharmacies will be able to opt-in to deliver COVID vaccinations but most pharmacies will be offering flu vaccination across the borough.
- Focused Cohorts:
 - Care Home Residents

PCNs will ensure that the lead GP Practices for each care home have made arrangements to either attend the homes and vaccinate residents, for community pharmacy to attend the homes, for residents to attend the lead GP practice (if clinically appropriate), or for vaccines to be provided to the homes for their nursing staff to administer. Methods of delivery varied from home to home last year and we anticipate these arrangements will be replicated again this year.
 - Care Home Staff

Care home staff vaccinations will be encouraged where ever possible and will be available via the individuals registered GP practice, a community pharmacy or as otherwise arranged by their employer.
 - Housebound

Central London Community Healthcare NHS Trust (CLCH) will provide flu vaccinations to those who are housebound, once the Service Level Agreement (SLA) has been shared by NHSE and agreed by the provider. GP Practices will be asked to

send their housebound caseload to the CLCH District Nurses to provide community based vaccinations to our residents.

Discussions with CLCH are also progressing to align the COVID vaccination programme and for district nursing teams to deliver these vaccinations in conjunction with the PCN.

- Homeless and Unregistered Population
Similarly, to the SLA for Housebound vaccinations, we are yet to receive the documentation from NHSE in relation to flu vaccinations. Once it has been shared we can ascertain which GP providers will be signing up but are confident that there will be good take up as in 2020/21 many GP practices provided vaccinations to our homeless population irrespective of additional agreements to do so.

Communications:

The communications and marketing campaign led by PHE will look slightly different this year with the release of an integrated campaign signalling the importance of both COVID and flu vaccines this winter. The campaign will officially launch with targeted promotions from early October focusing on the eligible cohorts, according to the PHE campaign resource website.

The NWL communications team have developed a draft plan in collaboration with the London regional team, who have in turn been collaborating with PHE. This will ensure consistency messaging and resources. The draft NWL plan is due to be shared internally and with communications and engagement teams in trusts and Local Authorities imminently.

Table 1: COVID-19 Vaccination Rates for LBHF Resident and H&F GP Registered Populations

Data Source: WSIC COVID-19 Dashboard 13/09/21 (Based on GP System Data Extracted on: 07/09/21)

Vaccination Cohort	LBHF Resident Population				CCG Registered Population			
	Eligible Patients	First Dose	Second Dose	Eligible Patients	First Dose	Second Dose		
Care Home Resident	552	469 85%	453 82%	563	475 84%	458 81%		
80+	5,061	4,206 83%	4,110 81%	5,115	4,248 83%	4,150 81%		
75-79	3,979	3,289 83%	3,229 81%	4,073	3,367 83%	3,305 81%		
70-74	5,531	4,538 82%	4,459 81%	5,677	4,651 82%	4,571 81%		
CEV	4,928	3,948 80%	3,756 76%	5,820	4,693 81%	4,462 77%		
65-69	5,820	4,509 77%	4,383 75%	6,052	4,704 78%	4,559 75%		
QCOVID	3,513	2,600 74%	2,403 68%	4,352	3,248 75%	3,031 70%		
At Risk	10,682	7,562 71%	6,990 65%	14,291	10,477 73%	9,669 68%		
60-64	6,195	4,527 73%	4,376 71%	6,569	4,807 73%	4,629 70%		
55-59	9,349	6,780 73%	6,524 70%	10,126	7,422 73%	7,133 70%		
50-54	11,997	8,292 69%	7,884 66%	13,268	9,246 70%	8,784 66%		
45-49	14,653	8,995 61%	8,470 58%	16,970	10,682 63%	10,020 59%		
40-44	18,898	9,610 51%	8,914 47%	23,983	13,446 56%	12,486 52%		
35-39	24,063	11,119 46%	9,990 42%	35,312	19,623 56%	17,850 51%		
30-34	29,070	14,588 50%	12,898 44%	53,290	32,659 61%	29,335 55%		
25-29	28,548	16,409 57%	14,118 49%	58,675	38,721 66%	33,239 57%		
20-24	16,895	9,401 56%	7,425 44%	26,061	14,511 56%	11,040 42%		
18-19	3,738	1,738 46%	1,084 29%	4,220	1,951 46%	1,180 28%		
16-17	3,877	1,004 26%	144 4%	3,995	1,018 25%	133 3%		
TOTAL	207,349	123,584 60%	111,610 54%	298,412	189,949 64%	170,034 57%		