

Vaccination Update Autumn 2024

Vaccination plays a huge part in reducing the spread of infectious diseases, which in turn reduces pressures on health services and maintains attendance at work, school and nursery.

To be fully effective, 95% of the population needs to be vaccinated – at the current time vaccination rates are reducing and sadly we are seeing a re-emergence of some serious diseases such as **Measles** and the increase of others such as **Whooping Cough** (Pertussis)

Childhood Vaccinations

Vaccinations start at 8 weeks old and continue into old age, including during pregnancy as this can help protect babies in their first weeks of life. A full vaccination schedule can be found here:

[Routine childhood immunisations from 1 September 2024 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/routine-childhood-immunisations-from-1-september-2024)

You can play a vital role by promoting vaccination to parents of young children and keeping staff informed of vaccinations that they are eligible for and by supporting the School Age Immunisation Service (SAIS) when they visit your schools.

Flu

Flu vaccinations will be offered to all school aged children (Reception – Y11) from the 1st September 2024, starting with primary aged children. This will be delivered by SAIS.

Children aged 2 or 3 years on 31st August 2024 will be offered flu vaccination by their GP's

The link below takes you to all the promotional resources available for this vaccination, including translations. Please share this material with parents.

[Flu vaccination for children: leaflets and posters - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/flu-vaccination-for-children-leaflets-and-posters)

Pre-School Booster

Children aged 3years 4 months should receive their second dose of **Measles, Mumps & Rubella (MMR)** and the 4 in 1 Pre-school booster which includes **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis (Whooping Cough) and Polio**. Please promote this to all parents using the resources in this link:

[Immunisations: resources for nurseries and schools - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/immunisations-resources-for-nurseries-and-schools)

[UKHSA warns of back to school measles surge - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/ukhsa-warns-of-back-to-school-measles-surge)

SAIS are currently able to offer the MMR vaccination opportunistically to those children who may have missed their vaccinations when they are delivering the flu programme.

The link below will give further information about vaccinations.

[Childhood Vaccinations - Essential information :: West Yorkshire Healthier Together \(wyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk\)](https://www.wyhealthiertogether.nhs.uk/childhood-vaccinations-essential-information)

Maternal Vaccinations

There are several **maternal vaccinations** offered to **pregnant women, Flu, Pertussis (Whooping Cough)** and, for the first time this year, **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**. Pertussis and RSV help protect the baby in their first weeks of life before they can receive their own vaccinations.

You may often meet pregnant women as part of your work – please take every opportunity to promote vaccinations.

RSV has been described as “maybe the most common virus you have never heard of” by GP and journalist Dr Mark Porter. RSV, usually undiagnosed, will have caused great concern – and sometimes tragedy – for many parents whose babies have struggling to breathe and feed due to bronchiolitis or pneumonia. 20,000 infants are admitted to hospitals in England each winter due to RSV. The vast majority have no underlying medical conditions. Many need intensive care, and 20 to 30 die. RSV has wider impacts too, cancelling major paediatric surgery because critical care beds are needed to keep children with RSV breathing.

The maternal vaccine is a major step forward for child health. It offers 70% protection against severe RSV lower respiratory tract infection over the most vulnerable first 6 months of life. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health has called it “game changing”.

Use the link below for more information, including translations.

[Respiratory syncytial virus \(RSV\): maternal vaccination - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/respiratory-syncytial-virus-rsv-maternal-vaccination)

[Whooping cough: vaccination in pregnancy programme resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/whooping-cough-vaccination-in-pregnancy-programme-resources)

Staff Vaccinations

Staff sickness can be very costly, a staff member with flu could be off work for 2 weeks, and an unvaccinated contact of measles will be required to isolate for 21 days. Absences such as these place a huge strain on a workplace, school or nursery, the financial cost of cover, the additional workload placed on other staff members and the disruption to service delivery.

Encouraging your staff to take up the vaccinations they are eligible for will help keep people healthy and in work over the winter period. Many people working in settings where there a lot of children and young people can feel quite anxious about the possibility of catching a disease or passing it to vulnerable members of their family. Vaccination can help reduce these worries.

Adults over 65, those in care homes and those with underlying medical conditions will be offered **Flu and COVID-19 vaccination**. They will also be offered free, to all **frontline health and social care workers** (NYC will be offering dedicated clinics for staff where they will be able to receive both vaccinations). From 1st September 2024 adults over 75 will also be offered **Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV)**.

If you are able, it may make financial sense to offer to pay for flu vaccinations for staff who are not eligible for a free vaccination. Please make it as easy as possible for staff to get vaccinated – this may mean allowing them time off work to attend a vaccination appointment.

[Your guide to the RSV vaccine for older adults - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/your-guide-to-the-rsv-vaccine-for-older-adults)

[When you should get your flu vaccination - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)

[Who's eligible for the 2024 COVID-19 vaccine, or 'Autumn Booster'? – UK Health Security Agency \(blog.gov.uk\)](https://blog.gov.uk)

Shingles, whilst not highly infectious, can be quite painful and can have long term effects for some. This vaccination is available for those over 70 and over 50 with underlying health conditions but is also being introduced gradually for those between 60-70. For more information click here:

[Vaccination against shingles guide from September 2023 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk)