



**Flu Vaccinations are
now available here,
at the pharmacy.**

No appointment needed.

(Pick up a form, or download it from the pharmacy website, so you can fill it in before you come in. You may want to phone ahead, to **check Karen is working** on the day you plan to come in for your vaccination.)

From the Acting Chief Medical Officer
Chief Nursing Officer
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Influenza Immunisation for Health and Social Care Staff

SGHD/CMO(2014)12 (abbreviated)

The Scottish Government considers it to be unacceptable for healthcare workers recommended to receive flu vaccine not to take up this offer.

Therefore, as in previous years, free seasonal influenza immunisation should be offered by NHS organisations to all employees directly involved in delivering care. This is not an NHS service, but an Occupational Health responsibility being provided to NHS staff by employers.

2. ... groups of staff can be considered as directly involved in delivering care, but examples might include:

- Clinicians, Midwives and Nurses, Paramedics and Ambulance Drivers;
- Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Radiographers;
- Primary Care Providers such as GPs, Practice Nurses, District Nurses and Health Visitors;
- Dentists, Dental Nurses, Therapists or Hygienists
- Social Care staff working in care settings;
- Pharmacists; both those working in the community and in other clinical settings.

3. Students and trainees in these disciplines and volunteers who are working with patients should also be included. This is not an exhaustive list and decisions to provide immunisation should be based on local assessment of likely risk and exposure.

4. Rationale for Vaccination Low uptake of seasonal flu vaccination by health care workers continues to be an issue in Scotland and throughout the UK. While vaccination of NHS staff remains voluntary, **we would encourage ... all staff to seriously consider the benefits to themselves and their family contacts, their patients, and the NHS as a result accepting the offer of the vaccine.**

5. Flu outbreaks can arise in health and social care settings with both staff and their patients/clients being affected when flu is circulating in the community. It is important that health professionals protect themselves by having the flu vaccine, and, in doing so, they **reduce the risk of spreading flu to their family members.**

6. Vaccination of healthcare workers against flu significantly lowers rates of flu-like illness, hospitalisation and mortality in the elderly in healthcare settings. Vaccination of staff in social care settings may provide similar benefits. Flu immunisation of healthcare workers with direct patient contact and social care staff may reduce the transmission of infection to vulnerable patients, some of whom may have impaired immunity that may not respond well to immunisation.

7. Vaccination of frontline workers also helps reduce the level of sickness absences and can help ensure that the NHS and care services are able to **continue operating over the winter period.**

Flu Vaccinations 2014 / 15

Free at School:

All primary school children in P1-7

Free at the Medical Centre:

- Children who are 2yrs old, or over on 1st Sept. 2014 but not yet at school.
- People with conditions and diseases which can make flu much more dangerous, including: asthma, bronchitis, emphysema, cystic fibrosis, chronic heart disease, chronic kidney failure, multiple sclerosis, liver problems such as cirrhosis/hepatitis, diabetes and HIV infection.
- Anyone undergoing chemotherapy treatment should also get vaccinated.
- And, if you have children who suffer from any of these conditions, they should be vaccinated too.
- Anyone 65yrs old or over should also be vaccinated.
- What's more, if you provide care for older people, anyone frail, anyone with a physical or mental illness or anyone with an addiction or disability, you're eligible for the flu vaccine.
- This includes children or young people aged under 18yrs old carrying out significant caring tasks for another person.

Free at Aberlour Pharmacy:

- Clinicians, Midwives and Nurses, Paramedics and Ambulance Drivers;
- Occupational Therapists, Physiotherapists and Radiographers;
- Primary Care Providers such as GPs, Practice Nurses, District Nurses and Health Visitors;
- Dentists, Dental Nurses, Therapists or Hygienists
- Social Care staff working in care settings;
- Pharmacists

£20 at Aberlour Pharmacy:

Anyone who doesn't meet the criteria to get a free vaccination but who doesn't want to risk being out of action for 7 to 10 days with flu.