



15 September 2021

Dear Care home manager,

The flu season is upon us and changes to this year's flu vaccination campaign will make it easier and more flexible for care homes.

We are asking you to help ensure your residents and staff get their vaccination as soon as possible to boost your levels of immunity. We will outline your options below.

The key message is, if you're offered the flu jab take it at the earliest time possible. Don't delay for the Covid booster.

Public Health England modelling indicates this influenza season could be up to 50% larger than typically seen in the UK and that it could begin earlier than usual.

Interventions such as shielding and social distancing were in place across the country last year and have now been lifted so more of the population may be susceptible to flu.

That's why there is an ambitious programme locally and nationally to ensure as many people working and living in residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities are vaccinated as early as possible. This will reduce pressures in care homes and on the health system with winter outbreaks of Covid-19 also likely.

Vaccination of care workers:

- helps reduce sickness absences and contributes to keeping the NHS and care services running through winter.
- protects staff and reduces the risk of spreading flu to patients, service users, colleagues and family members.
- reduces transmission of flu to vulnerable patients, especially those with impaired immunity.
- significantly lowers rates of flu-like illness, hospitalisation and death in long-term healthcare settings

What does this mean for my care home?

Some of the rules around who can be vaccinated have been relaxed meaning both staff and residents can receive their flu jab during organised vaccination sessions at your care home.

You can choose either:

- The main GP that looks after residents in your care home
- or
- Your community pharmacist

Please contact your preferred provider as soon as possible to discuss setting up sessions for staff and residents and for the benefits of holding a flu clinic. Both of these providers are being encouraged to work together to deliver the right service for residents and staff in a timely manner.



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If you have any concerns, please email ali.gul@bradford.gov.uk from Bradford Council who will look at putting you in contact with the best person to help with your enquiry.

If staff or residents want to be vaccinated separately by their GP, or by another route, that is also fine.

If staff members miss out on the vaccination session, a staff ID card should be enough to arrange a vaccination with a local pharmacist or GP.

Finally, we would like to thank you for all the hard work you have done in the past year to ensure your staff are vaccinated and look forward to seeing an increase in flu vaccination up-take this year.

Flu immunisation is one of the most effective interventions we can provide to reduce winter pressures and the more people in the community who have the flu vaccination, the less likely it will be that flu will take hold.

Yours faithfully,

Sarah Muckle
Director of Public Health,
Bradford Council

Dr James Thomas
Clinical Chair,
NHS Bradford District and Craven CCG