



15 September 2021

Dear Care provider,

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

We are asking you to help ensure your staff get their vaccination as soon as possible to boost their levels of immunity ahead of the winter.

**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 in the care sector are vaccinated as early as possible. This will reduce pressures in the health and care system with winter outbreaks of Covid-19 also likely.

#### **Vaccination of care workers:**

- protects staff and reduces the risk of spreading flu to service users, colleagues and family members.
- reduces transmission of flu to vulnerable service users, especially those with impaired immunity.
- significantly lowers rates of flu-like illness, hospitalisation and death associated with care settings.
- helps reduce the days of work lost to sickness.

#### **What does this mean for me?**

- We would encourage care providers to talk to their local GP or community pharmacists to see if a clinic can be set up to vaccinate your staff.
- Individuals invited to get their flu jab from their GP should accept the invitation if this means they can have it sooner.
- If staff members prefer to be vaccinated at their local pharmacist, a staff ID card should be enough to arrange a vaccination.

#### **Every contact counts**

We would also encourage care staff to discuss with their service users if they have had their invitation for the flu vaccination and encourage them to accept the invitation to ensure they boost their immunity over the winter period.

If you have any concerns, please email [ali.gul@bradford.gov.uk](mailto: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.



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**BRADFORD**  
METROPOLITAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

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**