Strategic Policy, Planning and Performance Report

Public Health Intelligence

Subject:	Jersey Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Statistics 2021-2022
Date of report:	29 September 2022

Introduction

This publication reports the annual uptake of seasonal influenza (flu) vaccinations covering the winter period 2021-2022. For statistics on incidence of influenza-like illness, please refer to the associated report "Jersey Seasonal Influenza-like Illness Statistics 2021-2022 produced by the Public Health Directorate.

The Health and Community Services (HCS) Department co-ordinates a seasonal flu vaccine plan every year to prevent flu amongst those who are at a higher risk of flu-associated illness and mortality. This includes older people, pregnant women, children and those with certain underlying medical conditions (known clinically as being 'at-risk').

Ahead of the 2021-2022 winter season, Health and Community Services (HCS) nurses offered the flu vaccine to schoolchildren, and GP practices and pharmacies offered the flu vaccine to people who fell into the higher risk categories (at a discounted rate or for free). To mitigate the potential impact on health services of a high level of circulating flu virus and the ongoing coronavirus pandemic, the 2020-2021 season saw the extension of the flu vaccine programme to include 50 to 64-year olds.
There was also an offer for the Influenza and COVID booster vaccines to be administered together, to those who were eligible by Jersey's vaccination team at the vaccination centre at Fort Regent.

The seasonal flu vaccine plan aims to protect and prevent as many people as possible within the following groups from catching flu during the winter season:

- infants 6 months to 2 years of age
- children aged 2, 3 and 4 years
- school-aged children reception up to year 11 (age 15 to 16)
- at-risk[1] 16 to 64-year olds
- people aged 50 to 64 years
- people aged 65 and over
- pregnant women
- households of those on the shielded patient list or of immunocompromised individuals
- home carers
- care home and domiciliary staff
- frontline health and community services staff

[1] *At-risk group – includes patients with a long-term medical condition including chronic respiratory disease or asthma; chronic heart disease; chronic kidney disease; chronic liver disease; chronic neurological disease; diabetes type 1 or type 2; a suppressed immune system; asplenia or spleen dysfunction or a BMI of more than 40*

Public Health England suggested that flu vaccination coverage in 2021-2022 season achieve a minimum 75% uptake across all eligible groups.

Although all countries of the UK use standardised specifications to extract uptake data from IT information systems in primary care, there are some differences in extraction specifications, so comparisons between Jersey and the four constituent countries of the United Kingdom should be made cautiously.

What the data is telling us?

The 2021-2022 season's immunisation programme was the most successful on record, with the highest levels of vaccine uptake recorded in Jersey for those aged 50 years and over. For other cohorts, such as nursery and school aged children, vaccine uptake was slightly below levels observed in 2020-2021.

The Influenza vaccination is likely to have contributed to reduced flu illness during the 2020–2021 season, alongside the mitigation measures introduced as part of the response to the coronavirus pandemic. The Government of Jersey works each year to increase the number of people who receive a flu vaccine and eliminate barriers to vaccination.

Summary

In 2021-2022:

- the proportion of pre-school children aged 2-4 years who were vaccinated in Nurseries or at GP surgeries (57%) was lower than in the previous year 2020-2021 (69%)
- vaccine uptake in the compulsory school-aged children programme (4-16 years) was 66%, lower when compared to the previous year's programme 2020-2021 (71%)
- the proportion of patients aged 65 years and over who were vaccinated (84%) was higher than in the previous year (78%); this is the highest vaccine uptake ever achieved for this group, and exceeds the World Health Organization (WHO) vaccine uptake ambition of 75%
- one in two individuals aged 50-64 years (51%) were vaccinated
- around 340 pregnant women were immunised in 2021-22, a lower number than the previous year

Flu vaccine for pre-school children aged 2-4 years[2]

The vaccine programme for 2021-2022 was the fifth year of the nursery-based immunisation programme, where GPs and Practice Nurses went into nurseries to offer the nasal flu vaccine. The vaccine was also available to children of this age-group through GP surgeries.

- a lower number of pre-school aged children were immunised in 2021-2022 (1,100) than 2020-2021 (1,400)[3]
- influenza vaccine uptake in children aged 2 to 4 years (from October 2021 to July 2022) was 57%. Uptake was lower than in the 2020-21 season (69%)
- in England, 50% of children aged 2-3 years old received a flu vaccination

Table 1. Percentage of pre-school 2-4-year olds vaccinated in Nursery Programme or in GP surgery against influenza; 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 winter periods

	2016-17 winter %	*2017-18 winter %*	*2018-19 winter %*	*2019-20 winter %*	*2020-21 winter %*	*2021-22 winter %*
% of children aged 2-4 years vaccinated in nursery	-	41	39	47	55	48
% of children aged 2-4 years vaccinated in GP surgery	34	16	18	17	12	10
% of children aged 2-4 years vaccinated in other healthcare setting					3	
Total % uptake for children aged 2-4 years	34	58	58	64	69	57

Please note that percentages have been rounded to nearest integer

Flu vaccine for compulsory school-aged children (Reception to Year 11)

The children's nasal flu vaccination programme was introduced in 2014-2015 with children in Reception classes (aged 4 to 5 years) being offered the vaccine via a school-based programme. The programme had been extended each year, and since 2018-2019 the nasal flu vaccine has been offered to all compulsory school-aged children (Reception to Year 11 inclusive). A breakdown of the children immunised at school against flu, by year group, is given in Table 2.

- around 8,350 compulsory school-aged children had the flu vaccine in the 2021-2022 winter:
  - 8,315 influenza vaccines were given in primary and secondary schools
  - 35 were given at GP surgeries
- the number of vaccines given to school-aged children in 2021-2022 was slightly lower than the previous year (8,980)

[2] Pre-school children (2, 3 and 4 year olds) whose date of birth was between 01/09/2016 and 15/10/2018

[3] Numbers rounded to nearest 100

- a lower proportion of those children who were eligible were vaccinated (66%) when compared to the previous year's programme (71%)
- in England 52% of all school aged children (age 4-16 years) were vaccinated in 2021/2022[4]

Table 2. Percentage of school-aged children receiving flu vaccination in school by year group[5]

	2015-16 winter %	*2016-17 winter %*	*2017-18 winter %*	*2018-19 winter %*	*2019-20 winter %*	*2020-21 winter %*	*2021-22 winter %*
Reception	61	59	62	66	66	78	76
Year 1	58	57	60	63	66	73	75
Year 2	53	62	59	60	64	77	69
Year 3	-	54	60	61	62	71	73
Year 4	-	-	56	62	62	71	69
Year 5	-	-	56	57	61	70	71
Year 6	-	-	55	57	57	72	69
Year 7	-	-	-	55	54	63	62
Year 8	-	-	-	51	53	62	57
Year 9	-	-	-	48	50	58	59
Year 10	-	-	-	52	49	63	59
Year 11	-	-	-	57	49	56	54

Flu vaccine for adults

An annual flu vaccination is recommended by England's Chief Medical Officer for everyone aged from 6 months to 64 years of age with an underlying medical condition, for everyone aged 65 and older, and for pregnant women.

- around 340 influenza vaccines were given to pregnant women from 1 September 2021 to 31 July 2022 (see Table 3)

[4] *Seasonal_influenza_vaccine_uptake_childhood_January_2122.ods (live.com) UKHSA National Childhood Influenza Vaccination Programme 2021 to 2022*

[5] *Table does not include the children immunised at GP practices, or home-schooled children*

Table 3. Number of patients in the pregnant women category who were immunised at Vaccination centre, GP surgeries and pharmacies against influenza; 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-2022 winter periods

	2016-17 winter	*2017-18 winter*	*2018-19 winter*	*2019-20 winter*	*2020-21 winter*	*2021-22 winter*
Pregnant women	410	550	500	510	550	340

Table 4 provides the proportion of specific groups of patients who were actively registered[6] at GP practices and who received an influenza vaccination in each of the last six years, either through their GP surgery, pharmacies or the Vaccination Centre.

In the 2020-2021 season, the vaccination programme was extended to include all 50 to 64-year olds not at risk (dependent on supply).

In 2021-22:

- uptake in Jersey for **all** 50 to 64-year olds was 51%, an increase on 2020-2021 (45%), below the Public Health England (PHE) minimum uptake ambition of 75%[7]
- uptake in England for **all** 50 to 64-year olds was 51%[8]
- over four in five (84%) of patients aged 65 and over received a seasonal flu vaccination in Jersey; the World Health Organisation (WHO) uptake recommendation was that vaccine uptake for people aged 65 years and over should reach or exceed 75%[9]
- the uptake ambition for Public Health England (PHE) for those aged 65 and over in 2021-2022 was 85%[10]; in the past season (2021-2022), England saw a vaccine uptake of 82% in those aged 65 and over[11]
- cumulative influenza vaccine uptake in 2021-2022 was estimated to be 30% of patients aged 6 months to 49 years old in one or more clinical risk group(s)[12]

[6] Actively registered population are those who are registered with a Jersey GP surgery and have had a consultation with their GP within the last 4 years, or have changed active registration status within the last 6 months
[7] [ARCHIVED CONTENT] National flu immunisation programme 2021 to 2022 letter - GOV.UK (nationalarchives.gov.uk)
[8] LA Seasonal influenza vaccine uptake GP patients February 2122.ods (live.com) UK Health Security Agency
[9] WHO/Europe | Influenza vaccination coverage and effectiveness World Health Organisation Europe
[10] [ARCHIVED CONTENT] National flu immunisation programme 2021 to 2022 letter - GOV.UK (nationalarchives.gov.uk)
[11] Public health profiles - OHID (phe.org.uk) Office for Health Improvement and Disparities
[12] Figures presented may be an underestimate since data collection was different to previous years, due to co-administration of flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the vaccination centre

Table 4. Percentage of Census population, aged 50-64 years and 65 and over who were immunised at the Vaccination Centre, GP surgeries and pharmacies against flu; 2016-17, 2017-18, 2018-19, 2019-20, 2020-21 and 2021-22 winter periods

	2016-17 winter %	*2017-18 winter %*	*2018-19 winter %*	*2019-20 winter %*	*2020-21 winter %*	*2021-22 winter %*
Adults aged 50-64 years					45	51
Adults aged 65 and over	55	63	60	55	78	84

Notes

Data Sources

- The data for this report are derived from GP Central Server (EMIS); Community Pharmacy server (PharmOutcomes); information supplied by the Preventive Programmes Team about seasonal flu vaccinations given in nurseries and schools

Methodology

Percentage uptake in each of the priority groups were calculated using denominators (total in group) from the following sources:

- percentage uptake in pre-school aged children, and compulsory school aged children: Data from Child Health Information System (CarePlus), and CYPES school audit 2021

- uptake in adults aged 50 and over: Data from Statistics Jersey Census 2021

Data quality and completeness

The data quality and completeness of data extracted from the GP central server cannot be assured, however where variation between GP practices is identified, this is fed back to individual surgeries for further checks. Figures pulled are also compared to previous year figures to see where large changes have occurred, these can then be further investigated.

There are limitations to the data reported for vaccinations of pregnant women in this report. Data completeness is reliant on the recording of delivery status in the mother's medical records and does not necessarily represent 100 per cent of the population of pregnant women.