

Seasonal influenza vaccine statistics

2018-2019

Introduction

This publication reports the annual uptake of seasonal influenza (flu) vaccinations covering the winter period 2018-19.

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 and those with certain underlying medical conditions (known clinically as being 'at-risk'). In addition, children are offered the flu vaccine to provide both individual protection to the children themselves and reduce transmission across all age groups in order to protect vulnerable members of the population.

Ahead of the 2018/2019 winter season, 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). 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:

- children aged 2, 3 and 4 years
- school-aged children aged 4 to 16 years
- at-risk¹ 16 to 64 year olds
- people aged 65 and over
- pregnant women

Summary

- the proportion of pre-school children aged 2-4 years who were vaccinated in 2018/2019 (58%) remained at a similar level to 2017/18
- vaccine uptake in the extended compulsory school-aged children programme (4-16 years) was 58%
- a third (33%) of patients aged 16-64 years in the at-risk group were vaccinated, a similar proportion when compared to 2017/18 (35%)
- the proportion of patients aged 65 years and over who were vaccinated (60%) was slightly lower than in the previous year (63%)
- around 500 pregnant women were immunised in 2018/19

Flu vaccine for pre-school children aged 2 – 4 years²

The vaccine plan for 2018/2019 was the second 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.

- similar numbers of pre-school aged children were immunised in 2017/2018 (1,260) and 2018/2019 (1,270)
- influenza vaccine uptake in children aged 2 to 4 years (from October 2018 to March 2019) was 58%, similar to the uptake in the 2017/2018 season

Table 1: Percentage of pre-school 2-4 year olds vaccinated against influenza; 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 winter periods

	2016/17 winter	2017/18 winter	2018/19 winter
% of children aged 2-4 years vaccinated in nursery	0	41	39
% of children aged 2-4 years vaccinated in GP surgery	34	16	18
Total uptake for children aged 2-4 years	34	58	58

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

² Pre-school children (2, 3 and 4 year olds) whose date of birth was between 01/09/2014 and 15/10/2016

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 has been extended each year, and in 2018/2019 the nasal flu vaccine was 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.

- more compulsory school-aged children had the flu vaccine in the 2018/2019 winter than previously, with around 7,300 being vaccinated:
 - 7,150 influenza vaccines were given in primary and secondary schools
 - 140 were given at GP surgeries, and
 - 10 were given to children who were home-schooled
- the number of vaccines given to school-aged children in 2018/19 was 2,700 more than the previous year
- while there was an increase in the total numbers of children vaccinated compared to previous years (related to the extension of the programme to all school-aged children), 58% of the school-aged children eligible for the vaccination in the 2018-2019 programme were vaccinated; this is similar to the proportion vaccinated out of those children who were eligible in previous years' programmes

Table 2: Percentage of school-aged children receiving flu vaccination in school by year group³

	2015/16 winter	2016/17 winter	2017/18 winter	2018/19 winter
Reception	61	59	62	66
Year 1	58	57	60	63
Year 2	53	62	59	60
Year 3	-	54	60	61
Year 4	-	-	56	62
Year 5	-	-	56	57
Year 6	-	-	55	57
Year 7	-	-	-	55
Year 8	-	-	-	51
Year 9	-	-	-	48
Year 10	-	-	-	52
Year 11	-	-	-	47

Flu vaccine at GP surgeries and pharmacies

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 500 influenza vaccines were given to pregnant women from 1 September 2018 to 31 March 2019 (see Table 3)

Table 3: Number of patients in the pregnant women category who were immunised at GP surgeries and pharmacies against influenza; 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 winter periods

	2016/17 winter	2017/18 winter	2018/19 winter
Pregnant women	410	550	500

³ Table does not include the 140 children immunised at GP practices

Table 4 provides the proportion of specific groups of patients who were actively registered⁴ at GP practices and who received an influenza vaccination in each of the last three years, either through their GP surgery or through pharmacies.

In 2018/19:

- uptake of the flu vaccine at GP surgeries and pharmacies in the at-risk working age group (16-64 years) was 33%; a similar proportion to that in 2017/18 (35%)
- 60% of patients aged 65 and over received a seasonal flu vaccination; the World Health Organisation (WHO) recommends that vaccine uptake for people aged 65 years and over should reach or exceed 75%

Table 4: Percentage of actively registered patients in the at risk working age (16-64 years) group, and adults aged 65 and over who were immunised at GP surgeries and pharmacies against flu; 2016/17, 2017/18 and 2018/19 winter periods

	2016/17 winter	2017/18 winter	2018/19 winter
At-risk working age (16-64 years)*	24	35	33
Adults aged 65 and over	55	63	60

**Figures presented are a slight underestimate, since records at GP practices may not have been updated for individuals who received a seasonal flu vaccination provided at their place of work.*

Data Sources - The data for this report are derived from:

- GP Central Server (EMIS web); Community Pharmacy server (PharmOutcomes); information supplied by the Preventive Programmes Team about seasonal flu vaccinations given in nurseries and schools

⁴ 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