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**Subject:** Jersey Seasonal Influenza Vaccine Statistics 2019-20  
**Date of report:** May 2021

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## Introduction

This publication reports the annual uptake of seasonal influenza (flu) vaccinations covering the winter period 2019-20. For statistics on incidence of influenza-like illness, please refer to the associated report “Jersey Seasonal Influenza-like Illness Statistics 2019-20”

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 2019-20 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-risk<sup>1</sup> 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 Nurseries or at GP surgeries in 2019-20 (64%) was higher than in the previous year 2018-19 (58%)
- vaccine uptake in the compulsory school-aged children programme (4-16 years) was 59%
- around a quarter (26%) of patients aged 16-64 years in the at-risk group were vaccinated, a lower proportion when compared to 2018-19 (33%)
- the proportion of patients aged 65 years and over who were vaccinated by GP or Pharmacist (55%) was slightly lower than in the previous year (60%)
- over 500 pregnant women were immunised in 2019-20, a similar number to the previous year

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<sup>1</sup> *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*

## Flu vaccine for pre-school children aged 2-4 years<sup>2</sup>

The vaccine plan for 2019-20 was the third 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.

- more pre-school aged children were immunised in 2019-20 (1,380) than 2018-19 (1,270)
- influenza vaccine uptake in children aged 2 to 4 years (from October 2019 to March 2020) was 64%, higher than the uptake in the 2018-19 season (58%)

**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 and 2019-20 winter periods**

	2016-17 winter %	2017-18 winter %	2018-19 winter %	2019-20 winter %
<i>% of children aged 2-4 years vaccinated in nursery</i>	0	41	39	47
<i>% of children aged 2-4 years vaccinated in GP surgery</i>	34	16	18	17
<i>Total % uptake for children aged 2-4 years</i>	34	58	58	64

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

The children's nasal flu vaccination programme was introduced in 2014-15 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 2019-20 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.

- around 7,340 compulsory school-aged children had the flu vaccine in the 2019-20 winter:
  - 7,250 influenza vaccines were given in primary and secondary schools
  - 80 were given at GP surgeries, and
  - less than 10 were given to children who were home-schooled
- the number of vaccines given to school-aged children in 2019-20 was similar to the previous year (7,290)
- a similar proportion of those children who were eligible were vaccinated (59%) when compared to the previous year's programme (58%)

<sup>2</sup> Pre-school children (2, 3 and 4 year olds) whose date of birth was between 01/09/2015 and 15/10/2017

**Table 2: Percentage of school-aged children receiving flu vaccination in school by year group<sup>3</sup>**

	2015-16 winter %	2016-17 winter %	2017-18 winter %	2018-19 winter %	2019-20 winter %
Reception	61	59	62	66	66
Year 1	58	57	60	63	66
Year 2	53	62	59	60	64
Year 3	-	54	60	61	62
Year 4	-	-	56	62	62
Year 5	-	-	56	57	61
Year 6	-	-	55	57	57
Year 7	-	-	-	55	54
Year 8	-	-	-	51	53
Year 9	-	-	-	48	50
Year 10	-	-	-	52	49
Year 11	-	-	-	57	49

#### 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.

- over 500 influenza vaccines were given to pregnant women from 1 September 2019 to 31 March 2020 (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, 2018-19 and 2019-20 winter periods**

	2016-17 winter	2017-18 winter	2018-19 winter	2019-20 winter
Pregnant women	410	550	500	510

<sup>3</sup> Table does not include the 80 children immunised at GP practices, or home-schooled children

Table 4 provides the proportion of specific groups of patients who were actively registered<sup>4</sup> 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 2019-20:**

- uptake of the flu vaccine at GP surgeries and pharmacies in the at-risk working age group (16-64 years) was 26%; a lower proportion to that in 2018-19 (33%)
- 55% of patients aged 65 and over received a seasonal flu vaccination with a GP or Pharmacist; 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, 2018-19 and 2019-20 winter periods**

	<i>2016-17 winter %</i>	<i>2017-18 winter %</i>	<i>2018-19 winter %</i>	<i>2019-20 winter %</i>
<i>At-risk working age (16-64 years)*</i>	24	35	33	25
<i>Adults aged 65 and over</i>	55	63	60	55

*\*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.*

<sup>4</sup> *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*

# Notes

## 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

## 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)
- Percentage uptake in actively registered patients in the at-risk working age (16-64 years) group: Data from actively registered list from GP Central Server (EMIS web)
- Percentage uptake in adults aged 65 and over: Data from actively registered list from GP Central Server (EMIS web)