

Flu and Covid Vaccination Programmes Update

Jessica Arnold, Director of Flu and Covid Vaccinations

Update for Bromley Borough Based Board, 11th November 2020.

Questions can be directed to Jessica.arnold1@nhs.net

Progress with flu vaccination delivery by cohort

To meet the target rate of 75% across all cohorts, south east London boroughs will need to deliver 782,592 vaccinations. This is 407,842 more vaccinations than delivered in 2019/20.

The 2020/21 flu programme formally started on 1st October 2020, although some practices and pharmacies began vaccination before this date where vaccine supplies had been received.

Please note that as flu data is available from Wednesday evenings and delivery is happening at pace, an updated version will be supplied to members shortly before the meeting to reflect the latest position.

The position for Bromley up to 1st November was:

	65+	<65 at risk	Pregnant	2 year olds	3 year olds
Bromley	67.1%	31.7%	25.1%	35.1%	40.0%
SEL CCG*	59.0%	28.1%	23.0%	34.4%	35.6%
London	58.5%	27.9%	21.4%	32.9%	34.0%
England	67.6%	31.1%	25.3%	37.8%	39.4%

Flu vaccine stocks

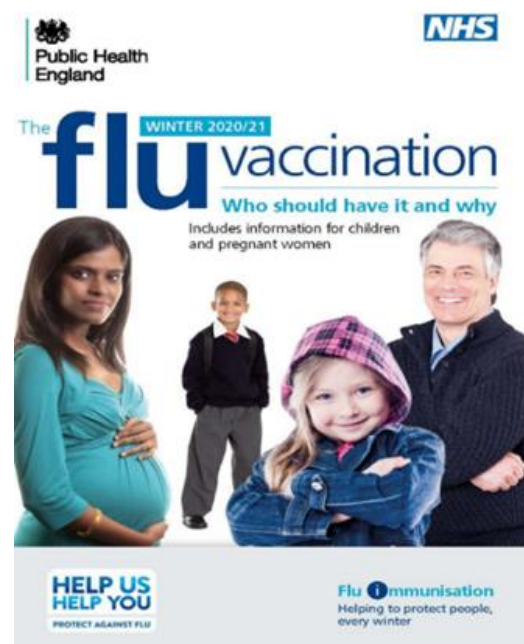
There has been a national shortage of flu vaccine stocks that has endured for the early part of the vaccination programme (September and October). As vaccine deliveries are phased, some general practices did not receive their orders until late. We have local arrangements in place to provide mutual aid where possible across our GP practices, with limited mutual aid with pharmacies in isolated patches.

However, further stocks now being distributed through a Department of Health and Social Care route, and it was confirmed on 26th October that these stocks are now available for order. National assurances have been made that all eligible patients will be able to access a flu jab before the flu season sets in, normally in December. A statement on flu vaccines and supply for the national programme was published on 12th October and is available here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-vaccines-and-supply-for-the-national-flu-programme-2020-to-2021/flu-vaccines-and-supply-for-the-national-flu-programme>

Communications for the flu campaign

Although the full national communications campaign had been delayed due to national vaccine shortages, we 'soft launched' communications through social media and resources for general practices to use.



In particular, we have focused on encouraging 2 and 3 year old uptake as there is no shortage of these vaccines and this is in line with London priorities. Other target groups are eligible cohorts with traditionally low uptake including people aged under 65 who are at risk due to long term conditions, and pregnant women.

Mass vaccinations

In preparation for roll out of the flu vaccination to the 50-64 year old cohort (60,000 additional people in south east London), and afterwards, the roll out of a Covid vaccination, we have been actively scoping sites for mass vaccination centres and gauging the extent to which we have a sufficient number of vaccinators in general practice and the wider system.

While we await further guidance nationally on the stocks, requirements and timescales of adding this new cohort of patients, we have been surveying south east London general practice, pharmacies, PCNs and federations about what they might provide.

Covid vaccinations preparation update

Planning for roll out of a Covid vaccine is underway in Bromley and across south east London and nationally. A Covid Vaccination Programme has been set up for south east London, including a senior level Programme Board that reports into various clinical and partnership governance routes.

We know that the Covid vaccine will initially be available in limited quantities, currently expected no earlier than 1st December. We know the priority groups will be:

1. Care home residents and staff
2. People 80 years of age and over and healthcare and social care workers
3. People 75 years of age and over
4. People 70 years of age and over
5. People 65 years of age and over
6. High-risk adults under 65 years of age
7. Moderate-risk adults under 65 years of age
8. People 60 years of age and over
9. People 55 years of age and over
10. People 50 years of age and over
11. Rest of the population

In SEL, this is modelled to be 1,006,000 people. As the vaccination is likely to require two doses, administered 28 days apart, this will mean 2,012,000 jabs will need to be given.

A combination of delivery models will be required, including through primary care (general practices and pharmacies), mass vaccination sites and a roving service to vaccinate to people in their own homes where they cannot travel.

Potential sites for vaccination clinics are being scoped, working closely between NHS and local authority estates teams and with primary care and our hospitals.

Workstreams are ongoing at pace to explore and prepare for the workforce, IT and logistical challenges associated with a vaccination programme of this unprecedented scale. Learning from this year's ambitious flu targets will be actively applied to Covid vaccination roll out. Other risks relate to the vaccine itself (storage and administering requirements, pork content, two dose compliance, licensing, flu vaccine contraindication) and patient perception (vaccine hesitancy, anti-vaxx campaigning).