

Extension of flu vaccination programme to 50 to 64 year olds

Thank you for the incredible work you have done so far in vaccinating eligible cohorts on the flu vaccination programme. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has now announced the [extension of the programme to 50 to 64 year olds](#).

General practices and community pharmacies will be able to vaccinate all 50-64-year olds from **1st December 2020**, and should begin planning now, for example, ordering additional stock and organising appointment slots. Vaccination of priority groups should continue alongside this new cohort. Supply is available from the national stock to support this extension. However, it is not known what the exact patterns of uptake will be for this new cohort, so you are advised to only order as much as you need for the immediate term.

This is particularly relevant to general practice given the COVID-19 vaccination programme will begin shortly which will need to be balanced alongside the flu programme and may result in more patients accessing flu vaccinations at community pharmacies in the latter part of the season. It is important to make every effort to ensure as many people as possible in this cohort are vaccinated prior to delivery of the COVID-19 vaccine.

DHSC will also be updating its guidance to [general practice](#) and [community pharmacy](#) on accessing centrally supplied flu vaccines which includes an update on the availability of supplies.

Please note that it is also very important that routine childhood vaccinations are maintained to ensure these cohorts are not disadvantaged during delivery of the flu and Covid vaccination programmes.

Full press release here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/free-flu-vaccinations-rolled-out-to-over-50s-from-december>

Please contact our team with any queries: england.londonimms@nhs.net

Kind Regards

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