

For the attention of Community Pharmacies providing the Autumn 2025 Community Pharmacy Vaccine Service (CPVS):

1. Please Note: Reduced Cohorts for COVID-19 Vaccination

An adverse incident has occurred where a COVID vaccination has been administered to 3 patients who were incorrectly deemed as eligible as they were in a 'clinic risk group'. The pharmacist was not aware that for the Autumn/Winter 25 CPVS COVID-19 programme the cohorts have been reduced to only the following eligible individuals aged 18 years and over:

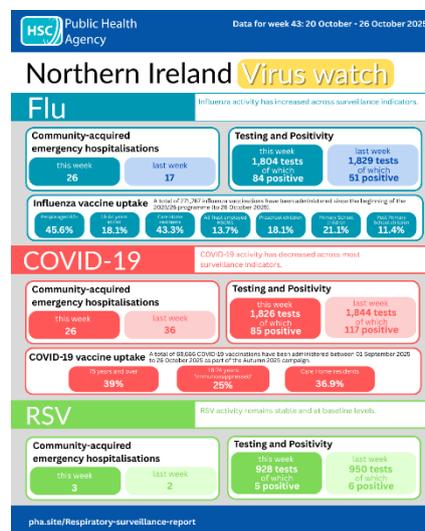
- All adults aged **75 years and over**
- All **residents of a care home for older adults*** registered with RQIA (*In care Homes for younger adults, only the immunosuppressed residents should be vaccinated)
- **Immunosuppressed** - Individuals aged 18 years and over who are **immunosuppressed** (as defined in the 'immunosuppression' sections of table 3 in the COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book). Note this is not the clinical risk groups seen in the Flu programme

Please ensure vaccinations are being administered to eligible patients only. The PHA have produced a resource for vaccination providers to assist in responding to potential queries that they may receive from the public or other health professionals in relation to the reduced COVID-19 vaccination programme, it is available [here](#).

2. Vaccination Uptake

The PHA have produced a graphic to highlight the winter virus activity in Northern Ireland (20th – 26th October 2025), this also shows current uptake levels in eligible groups. Please consider using this information when promoting vaccination with your patients.

- Health & Social Care Workers:
Promotion: All Health & Social Care Workers including pharmacy and care home staff are eligible for the flu vaccination. The PHA are asking all vaccination providers to ensure flu vaccination is promoted to this cohort as vaccination is one of the simplest ways of protecting yourself, your family, and the people we support from influenza.
VMS Recording: Please ensure that when recording a vaccination for a health and social care worker on VMS that you select 'Yes' when asked 'Is the patient a health and social care worker?', you should also select any other criteria that applies to the patient.



Is the patient a health and social care worker?

Yes No

Select all that apply to patient (if any)

Carer

Household immunosuppressed

At Risk

Immunosuppressed

Bird Culler

Pregnant

Is a trust or NI Ambulance Service the patient's primary employer?
If agency staff select no

Yes No

3. Vaccine Stock: Quota Increase Requests

Initial vaccine order quotas have been set based on your activity from Autumn 2024, if your demand has exceeded your allocated quota please email Grainne.McMahon4@hscni.net , in order for your request to be processed efficiently please include the following:

- Send the quota request email from your HSCNI email address
- Please state the quantity of each vaccine product you require to cover the next 2 weeks of planned activity
- If you are requesting extra stock to vaccinate a care home please include the number of residents are that are to be vaccinated as indicated by the care home manager

4. VMS: Duplicate Vaccination Records

There is now a duplicate dashboard on VMS that displays details of potential duplicate vaccination records (same vaccine type (COVID or flu) given to the same person, on the same day, by the same pharmacy).

You can check to see if you have added duplicate vaccination records by clicking 'Reports and Dashboards' at the bottom of the VMS homepage, see below:



Then:

Data Quality Dashboard

Potential Duplicates

Missing Vaccines

This tool is designed as a decision support tool to inform fixes for data quality issues. Suggestions in this dashboard require human validation before fixes are made. Any updates made in VMS will be reflected on this dashboard within 12 hours. This dashboard identifies patient vaccination events which may be duplicated in VMS. The records are flagged when the same patient has more than one completed vaccination record of the same type (e.g. Influenza) at the same location on the same day. Records can be investigated and deactivated in VMS by logging in at the listed location, searching for the patient and then viewing the vaccination details. If you find records which are incorrectly flagged please inform vmrequests@hscni.net.

Vaccine	Vaccination Date	Location	HCN	First Name	Last Name	Date Of Birth
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If you do find that you have added duplicate records in error please **edit the vaccine record** and **“deactivate”** the duplicate record as a matter of urgency.

If you have any queries about the Community Pharmacy Vaccination Service (CPVS) please contact Greg Miller (greg.miller@hscni.net) or Grainne McMahon (Grainne.McMahon4@hscni.net).

Regards,

SPPG Pharmacy Vaccination Team