

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

### 1. **Please Note: Early 2025/2026 influenza season**

The PHA have highlighted the clinical and health service implications of this year's early influenza season. The details are set out in the [PHA letter](#) that was emailed to Community Pharmacies and GPs on Friday 14<sup>th</sup> November.

#### **Key messages:**

- The 2025/2026 influenza season has started **earlier than usual**, with a **drifted strain of Influenza A (H3N2)** (subclade K) predominating.
- Influenza A(H3N2) predominance is associated with **higher morbidity and mortality, particularly in the elderly**, than when A(H1N1) predominates.
- **Influenza test positivity** in Northern Ireland (as of 9th November 2025), has reached **10.4% overall** and **30.6% in children aged 5–14 years**.
- **Hospital admissions** for community acquired influenza are higher than for the same period last year.
- **Vaccination remains highly protective** – current vaccine effectiveness data shows it reduces the risk of hospital attendance and admission for children and adults.

### 2. **VMS – Prompt Recording of Vaccinations**

PHA and SPPG are reporting the vaccine uptake as part of the national surveillance programme and there is a significant focus this year given the early start to the flu season. It is essential that vaccination records are entered onto VMS without delay by community pharmacy (as per the service specification). This allows accurate monitoring of vaccine uptake in the different cohorts and improves any follow up or interventions to address specific needs. Please record your vaccinations promptly on the VMS.

### 3. **Outstanding Care Home Vaccinations**

It is important that any Care Homes that have not yet been vaccinated, are vaccinated at the earliest opportunity. Paired Pharmacies should contact any outstanding Care Homes and ensure arrangements in place for the vaccinations to be provided. If there is any difficulty in making arrangements please contact Greg Miller ([greg.miller@hscni.net](mailto:greg.miller@hscni.net)) or Grainne McMahon ([Grainne.McMahon4@hscni.net](mailto:Grainne.McMahon4@hscni.net)) and we will liaise with the Trust Care Home Leads who can help resolve any potential issues.

Care Homes in Outbreak may still be vaccinated by following the [process outline by the PHA](#).

#### **4. 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](mailto: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

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

Regards,

SPPG Pharmacy Vaccination Team