

To: All contracted CPFV Pharmacies -  
regional

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19<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Colleague

**URGENT UPDATE – LOW STOCK LEVELS OF QIVC ACROSS  
NORTHERN IRELAND – ORDERS FOR COMMUNITY PHARMACY MAY  
BE DELAYED UNTIL A LATER DATE**

Due to unprecedented uptake of the Seasonal Influenza vaccine across Northern Ireland, central stock levels are lower than anticipated. This shortage is region wide and affects all providers (including GP practices and HSC Trusts) involved in the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2020/2021.

Further supplies of seasonal influenza vaccine are due to become available in the system for ordering from mid-November. In the interim vaccination services may have to be temporarily paused, or run at a reduced volume.

The HSCB, PHA and DoH are continuing to work closely with Movianto NI to secure additional vaccines to ensure minimal disruption to the current CPFV service. Due to the current low stock levels the following actions are required. Action for pharmacy contractors:

- Those pharmacies with remaining stock should continue to vaccinate HSCWs, **giving priority to frontline HSCWs (i.e. those with direct patient facing role).**
- At this time, pharmacists should establish if the HSCW has a direct patient facing role prior to making a vaccination appointment. Delayed appointments may be required for those HSCWs not in a direct patient facing role.
- Only place orders to cover those vaccination appointments that have already been booked and confirmed.
- Orders from Movianto NI may not be able to be fulfilled if stock levels reach critical levels. Pharmacies should delay or rearrange appointments for vaccination if supplies are not available.

- If booked appointments need to be delayed/rearranged, please contact the patient to notify them of the service delays due to supply shortages and remind them of any alternative vaccination services they can avail of.
- Manage future demand for the service by advising HSCWs that the pharmacy is awaiting further supply and will be in contact to arrange appointments in due course.

Please Note: Only central stock supplied by Movianto NI can be used for the CPFV service. Private stock cannot be used at any time to deliver this service. We apologise for this inconvenience and aim to update on vaccine supply as soon as possible.

For any queries please contact: Chris Blayney ([chris.blayney@hscni.net](mailto:chris.blayney@hscni.net)) or Greg Miller ([greg.miller@hscni.net](mailto:greg.miller@hscni.net) )

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Brogan', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Joe Brogan**  
**Assistant Director of Integrated Care**  
**Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management**