Flu and Covid Vaccine Eligibility 2023-24

		Flu	Covid	Notes
Special groups	6m+ with risk factors	Yes See Table 19.4	Yes See Table 3 for 16y+, Table 4 for <16y	• If under 9, may require 2 doses of flu vaccine if has not had before. Flu vaccine to be used varies depending on age. (see table 19.5) • We will not have a stock of nasal flu vaccine (for 2-18y) until early October. Do not book these until Debbie confirms availability.
	Household contacts of immunosuppressed	Yes - 6m+	Yes - 12y+	• We will not have a stock of nasal flu vaccine (for 2-18y) until early October. Do not book these until Debbie confirms availability.
	Carer or care home staff	Yes	Yes (16y+)	• Carer is defined as eligible for carers allowance.
	Care Home Residents	Yes	Yes	
	Front line healthcare staff	Yes	Yes	
	Pregnant	Yes	Yes	
Everyone else	<6m	No	No	
	2-3y (on 31/8)	Yes	No	• We will not have a stock of nasal flu vaccine (for 2-18y) until early October. Do not book these until Debbie confirms availability.
	4-11y	Yes - from school	No	
	65+	Yes	Yes	

Green book COVID chapter

Green book Influenza chapter

COVID - Table 3 (16y+ risk groups)

Table 3: Clinical risk groups for individuals aged 16 years and over.

Clinical risk groups	
Chronic respiratory disease	Individuals with a severe lung condition, including those with poorly controlled asthma[1] and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema; bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD).
Chronic heart disease and vascular disease	Congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, chronic heart failure, individuals requiring regular medication and/or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease. This includes individuals with atrial fibrillation, peripheral vascular disease or a history of venous thromboembolism.
Chronic kidney disease	Chronic kidney disease at stage 3, 4 or 5, chronic kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, kidney transplantation.
Chronic liver disease	Cirrhosis, biliary atresia, chronic hepatitis.
Chronic neurological disease	Stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA). Conditions in which respiratory function may be compromised due to neurological or neuromuscular disease (e.g. polio syndrome sufferers). This group also includes individuals with cerebral palsy, severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD) including all those on the learning disability register, Down's syndrome, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, dementia, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease and related or similar conditions; or hereditary and degenerative disease of the nervous system or muscles; or severe neurological disability.
Diabetes mellitus and other endocrine disorders	Any diabetes, including diet-controlled diabetes, current gestational diabetes, and Addison's disease.
Immunosuppression	Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, patients undergoing radical radiotherapy, solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients, HIV infection at all stages, multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system (e.g. IRAK-4, NEMO, complement disorder, SCID). Individuals who are receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulating biological therapy including, but not limited to, anti-TNF, alemtuzumab, ofatumumab, rituximab, patients receiving protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors, and individuals treated with steroid sparing agents such as cyclophosphamide and mycophenolate mofetil. Individuals treated with or likely to be treated with systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mg or more per day for adults. Anyone with a history of haematological malignancy, including leukaemia, lymphoma, and myeloma. Those who require long term immunosuppressive treatment for conditions including, but not limited to, systemic lupus erythematosus, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease, scleroderma and psoriasis.
	Some immunosuppressed patients may have a suboptimal immunological response to the vaccine (see Immunosuppression and HIV).
Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen	This also includes conditions that may lead to splenic dysfunction, such as homozygous sickle cell disease, thalassemia major and coeliac syndrome.
Morbid obesity	Adults with a Body Mass Index (BMI) ≥40 kg/m².
Severe mental illness	Individuals with schizophrenia or bipolar disorder, or any mental illness that causes severe functional impairment.
Younger adults in long-stay nursing and residential care settings	Many younger adults in residential care settings will be eligible for vaccination because they fall into one of the clinical risk groups above (for example learning disabilities). Given the likely high risk of exposure in these settings, where a high proportion of the population would be considered eligible, vaccination of the whole resident population is recommended. Younger residents in care homes for the elderly will be at high risk of exposure, and although they may be at lower risk of mortality than older residents should not be excluded from vaccination programmes (see priority 1 above).
Pregnancy	All stages (first, second and third trimesters)

1 Poorly controlled asthma is defined as:
- ≥2 courses of oral corticosteroids in the preceding 24 months OR
- on maintenance oral corticosteroids OR
- ≥1 hospital admission for asthma in the preceding 24 months

https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/covid-19/covid-19-information-for-the-respiratory-community/#jcvi-advice-on-covid-19-booster-vaccination-for-adults-in-clinical-at-risk-groups-and-adults-with-asthma

COVID - Table 4 (<16y risk groups)

Table 4: Clinical risk groups for individuals aged under 16 years

Chronic respiratory disease	Including those with poorly controlled asthma[1] that requires continuous or repeated use of systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission, cystic fibrosis, ciliary dyskinesias and bronchopulmonary dysplasia
Chronic heart conditions	Haemodynamically significant congenital and acquired heart disease, or less severe heart disease with other co-morbidity. This includes: • single ventricle patients or those palliated with a Fontan (Total Cavopulmonary Connection) circulation • those with chronic cyanosis (oxygen saturations <85% persistently) • patients with cardiomyopathy requiring medication • patients with congenital heart disease on medication to improve heart function • patients with pulmonary hypertension (high blood pressure in the lungs) requiring medication
Chronic conditions of the kidney, liver or digestive system	Including those associated with congenital malformations of the organs, metabolic disorders and neoplasms, and conditions such as severe gastro-oesophageal reflux that may predispose to respiratory infection
Chronic neurological disease	This includes those with • neuro-disability and/or neuromuscular disease that may occur as a result of conditions such as cerebral palsy, autism, epilepsy and muscular dystrophy • hereditary and degenerative disease of the nervous system or muscles, other conditions associated with hypoventilation • severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), Down's syndrome, including all those on the learning disability register • neoplasm of the brain
Endocrine disorders	Including diabetes mellitus, Addison's and hypopituitary syndrome
Immunosuppression	Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including: • those undergoing chemotherapy or radiotherapy, solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients • genetic disorders affecting the immune system (e.g. deficiencies of IRAK-4 or NEMO, complement disorder, SCID) • those with haematological malignancy, including leukaemia and lymphoma • those receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulating biological therapy • those treated with or likely to be treated with high or moderate dose corticosteroids • those receiving any dose of non-biological oral immune modulating drugs e.g. methotrexate, azathioprine, 6-mercaptopurine or mycophenolate • those with auto-immune diseases who may require long term immunosuppressive treatments Children who are about to receive planned immunosuppressive therapy should be considered for vaccination prior to commencing therapy.
Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen	Including hereditary spherocytosis, homozygous sickle cell disease and thalassemia major
Serious genetic abnormalities that affect a number of systems	Including mitochondrial disease and chromosomal abnormalities
Pregnancy	All stages (first, second and third trimesters)

1 Poorly controlled asthma is defined as:
- ≥2 courses of oral corticosteroids in the preceding 24 months OR
- on maintenance oral corticosteroids OR
- ≥1 hospital admission for asthma in the preceding 24 months

https://www.brit-thoracic.org.uk/covid-19/covid-19-information-for-the-respiratory-community/#jcvi-advice-on-covid-19-vaccination-for-children-aged-12-15-years-in-clinical-at-risk-groups)

Flu

Table 19.4 Clinical risk groups who should receive the influenza immunisation. Influenza vaccine should be offered to people in the clinical risk categories set out below.

Clinical risk category	Examples (this list is not exhaustive and decisions should be based on clinical judgement)
Chronic respiratory disease	Asthma that requires continuous or repeated use of inhaled or systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema; bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD). Children who have previously been admitted to hospital for lower respiratory tract disease. See precautions section on LAIV.
Chronic heart disease and vascular disease	Congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, chronic heart failure, individuals requiring regular medication and/or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease. This includes individuals with atrial fibrillation, peripheral vascular disease or a history of venous thromboembolism.
Chronic kidney disease	Chronic kidney disease at stage 3, 4 or 5, chronic kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, kidney transplantation.
Chronic liver disease	Cirrhosis, biliary atresia, chronic hepatitis.
Chronic neurological disease (included in the DES directions for Wales)	Stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA). Conditions in which respiratory function may be compromised due to neurological or neuromuscular disease (for example polio syndrome sufferers). Clinicians should offer immunisation, based on individual assessment, to clinically vulnerable individuals including those with cerebral palsy, severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities (PMLD), Down's syndrome, multiple sclerosis, dementia, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease and related or similar conditions; or hereditary and degenerative disease of the nervous system or muscles; or severe neurological disability.
Diabetes and adrenal insufficiency	Type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs, diet-controlled diabetes. Addison's disease, secondary or tertiary adrenal insufficiency requiring steroid replacement.
Immunosuppression (see contraindications and precautions section on live attenuated influenza vaccine)	Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, patients undergoing radical radiotherapy, solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients, people living with HIV (at all stages), multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system (for example IRAK-4, NEMO, complement disorder, SCID). Individuals who are receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulating biological therapy including, but not limited to, anti-TNF- alemtuzumab, ofatumumab, rituximab, patients receiving protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors, and individuals treated with steroid sparing agents such as cyclophosphamide and mycophenolate mofetil. Individuals treated with or likely to be treated with systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mg or more per day (any age), or for children under 20kg, a dose of 1mg or more per kg per day. Anyone with a history of haematological malignancy, including leukaemia, lymphoma, and myeloma and those with systemic lupus erythematosus and rheumatoid arthritis, and psoriasis who may require long term immunosuppressive treatments. Some immunocompromised patients may have a suboptimal immunological response to the vaccine.
Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen	This also includes conditions such as homozygous sickle cell disease, hereditary spherocytosis, thalassemia major and coeliac syndrome that may lead to splenic dysfunction.
Pregnant women	Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy (first, second or third trimesters). See precautions section on live attenuated influenza vaccine.
Morbid obesity (class III obesity)*	Adults with a Body Mass Index ≥40 kg/m².

* Many of this patient group will already be eligible due to complications of obesity that place them in another risk category

Table 19.5 Influenza vaccination for children under 18 years old

Eligible cohort	Children in clinical risk groups and children who are household contacts of immunocompromised individuals	Children not in clinical risk groups[1]
6 months to less than 2 years old	Offer suitable quadrivalent inactivated flu vaccine. Those who have not received flu vaccine before should be offered 2 doses (given at least 4 weeks apart).	Not applicable.
2 years to less than 9 years old	Offer LAIV (unless medically contraindicated[2]) Those who have not received flu vaccine before should be offered 2 doses (given at least 4 weeks apart).	Offer LAIV[1]
Children aged 9 years to less than 18 years old	Offer LAIV (unless medically contraindicated[2]).	Offer LAIV[1]

1 Please see the respective annual flu letters for England and the Devolved Administrations for the cohorts of children not in clinical risk groups that are eligible for influenza vaccination for the coming/current season.

2 If LAIV is medically contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable, then offer quadrivalent inactivated flu vaccine.