

Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership

Flu vaccination programme in Edinburgh

Stakeholder briefing

Background

The COVID-19 pandemic and the increase in the number of people who should get a free flu vaccine, means it is very difficult for your GP practices to give flu vaccines to everyone eligible this winter.

In Edinburgh, we have set up drive through and walk through clinics around the city to give flu vaccines to all eligible people during October and November. Doing this will allow us to vaccinate as many people as possible, while making sure we can maintain physical distancing and keep everyone safe.

Patient feedback from the first two weekends has been overwhelmingly positive despite the inevitable teething problems of a very different arrangement.

We need your help

We want to make sure as many people as possible know how to go about getting their flu vaccine.

We're asking for your help to let the people you support, your colleagues and stakeholders understand how to get a free flu jab.

We've included information for you to use in newsletters and social media together with who should get the flu vaccine.

Thanks in advance for your help.

Our media release

You can find our [media release](#) on the latest news section of our website.

Information in other languages

You can find [videos in a range of other languages](#) on our Youtube channel.

There are videos in English, Urdu, Punjabi, Polish, Mandarin, Cantonese, Bengali, Arabic and BSL.

Suggested newsletter and social media posts

Suggested newsletter article (340 words)

Flu vaccinations just got easier in Edinburgh

The way people get their free flu jabs in Edinburgh is changing

Staying healthy, safe and cared for is more important now than ever before. Protecting yourself from flu this winter is one important and easy way to do this. And now it's even quicker, safer and easier.

This year the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership has introduced a new way of getting your flu vaccination in Edinburgh - the flu drive through. Instead of visiting your GP to get your vaccine, you will visit one of eight drive through clinics across Edinburgh.

The clinics will open most weekends in October and November and can vaccinate up to 500 people a day.

By developing flu drive throughs, everyone entitled to a free flu vaccine from a household can attend at the same time. For those who don't have access to a car, you'll be able to visit one of the walk through clinic across the city.

In addition, you can give a neighbour or friend a lift as long as you are both well and wear masks and take normal COVID precautions (further details are available on the NHS Inform website below)

As well as over 65s, pregnant people, unpaid carers and those at risk due to existing health conditions, those who lived with people who shielded during lockdown will also be offered a free flu jab.

Keeping people safe and healthy is a priority, so before the jab is administered, a nurse will ask some questions to make sure it is safe to administer the vaccine. The person receiving the jab doesn't need to leave their car and will also be asked to wait 15 minutes before leaving the clinic to ensure there's no reaction to the vaccine.

If you are eligible for a free flu vaccine, or for more information, go to www.nhsinform.scot/flu to find out where you can get your jab in Edinburgh. If you qualify for a free vaccine you'll be given a time to attend a clinic after completing a short questionnaire. Please help neighbours and friends who may not be comfortable with accessing websites.

Find your nearest flu drive through on [NHS inform.scot/flu](http://NHSinform.scot/flu) or by calling **0800 22 44 88**

Suggested newsletter article (200 words)

Flu vaccinations just got easier in Edinburgh

The way people get their free flu jabs in Edinburgh is changing

Staying healthy, safe and cared for is more important now than ever before. Protecting yourself from flu this winter is one easy way to do this.

This year the Edinburgh Health and Social Care Partnership has introduced a new way of getting your flu vaccination in Edinburgh - the flu drive through. Instead of visiting your GP to get your vaccine, you will visit one of eight drive through clinics across Edinburgh.

The drive through clinics will open most weekends in October and November but it's always helpful to check for any changes in the timetable. If you don't have access to a car, you'll be able to visit a walk through clinic and details of these are also on the NHS Inform website.

If you are eligible for a free flu vaccine, or for more information, go to www.nhsinform.scot/flu to find out where you can get your flu jab. If you qualify for a free vaccine you'll be given a time to attend a clinic after completing a short questionnaire. And please offer help to any friends or neighbours who may not regularly use websites.

Find your nearest flu drive through on [NHS inform.scot/flu](http://NHSinform.scot/flu) or by calling **0800 22 44 88**

Suggested social media posts

Text 1 – general (140 characters)

The way you get your free flu jab in Edinburgh is changing. Find out how to get your flu vaccine at nhsinform.scot/flu or call 0800 22 44 88

Text 2 – over 65 (149 characters)

If you are 65 or over and live in Edinburgh, the way you get your free flu jab is changing. Find out more at nhsinform.scot/flu or call 0800 22 44 88

Text 3 – health conditions (167 characters)

If you are between 18 + 64 and have an underlying health condition, the way you get your free flu jab is changing. Find how at nhsinform.scot/flu or call 0800 22 44 88

Text 4 – pregnancy (123 characters)

If you're pregnant and live in Edinburgh, find out how to get your free flu jab at nhsinform.scot/flu or call 0800 22 44 88

Text 5 – carers (154 characters)

Are you a young or unpaid carer and live in Edinburgh? The way you get your free flu jab is changing. Find how at nhsinform.scot/flu or call 0800 22 44 88

Text 6 – shielding (163 characters)

If you live with someone who has been shielding in Edinburgh, get your free flu jab at a drive through clinic. Find how at nhsinform.scot/flu or call 0800 22 44 88

Who should get a flu vaccine

Who can get a free flu vaccine this year?

These groups are eligible for the flu vaccine this year:

- all primary school children
- children aged 2 to 5 (children aged 2 on 1 September 2020 and not yet in school)
- anyone aged 55 and over (from December)
- anyone aged 18-64 in clinical risk groups
- those living with people who were shielding during lockdown
- pregnant women
- healthcare workers
- unpaid and young carers
- social care workers who provide direct personal care

Why you should get a flu vaccine

With COVID-19 around it's more important than ever to get the flu vaccine.

Flu is serious. Getting the vaccine will protect you, others and the NHS.

What you should I do if you are:

- **over 65**
- **aged 18-64 and in a clinical risk group**
- **pregnant**
- **a carer**
- **living with someone who was shielding during lockdown?**

You should go to a drive or walk through clinic to receive your flu vaccine.

Go to nhsinform.scot/flu to find out where and when you can get a free flu vaccine.

What you should do if you're 55-64

If you are aged 55-64, and are not in any of the above categories, you will get a vaccine in a later phase of the programme. Please do not come to one of the clinics unless you have had a letter confirming your eligibility.

Where you can get a flu vaccine if you're not eligible for a free one

You can pay for a flu vaccination at many community pharmacies.

Where you can find out more

You can find more information about the flu vaccine process in Scotland at nhsinform.scot/flu. You can also call **0800 22 44 88**.

Getting in touch with us

If you want more information, need to tweak content to a different word count, or need a logo or images, just get in touch with us by emailing EHSCP.communications@edinburgh.gov.uk