

Childhood seasonal influenza Advanced service

Community Pharmacy
England and NHS England
webinar for pharmacy
owners and teams
20th August 2025



Introduction

- Community pharmacy is keen to provide more NHS vaccination services
- NHS England's vaccination strategy – RSV and Pertussis; HPV catch-up
- This service does not have a large cohort (c. 1.2m last season), but it is a strategically important development
- It is a show of faith from Ministers and the NHS in their belief that pharmacies can improve vaccine uptake levels...
- ...and we therefore all need to ensure the service is delivered well, supporting increased vaccine coverage, bringing benefit to patients and the NHS
- Community Pharmacy England is really keen that pharmacy owners and their teams choose to provide the service...
- But we need any pharmacy signing up to provide the service to fully engage in it, including promoting it to parents/guardians of eligible children



Overview of the service specification

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Head of Policy and Contracting –
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Overview of the service

Duration

The childhood seasonal influenza advanced service commences on 1 October 2025 and will run until 31 March 2026. Vaccines must not be administered before 1 October.

Eligibility

All children aged 2 and 3 years old are eligible, including those in a clinical risk group.

Aims

Increase uptake of flu vaccinations for this age group by widening access and providing parents with additional opportunities to seek vaccination for their children.

Important to know...

- ▶ Last season, 1.2 million children were eligible for a flu vaccine and uptake rates in general practice have been just over 40% for several years, with a slight decline year on year.
- ▶ It is important we understand whether expanding the childhood flu programme into community pharmacy is achieving the intended aims. That is why the service has only been commissioned for one year pending an evaluation.
- ▶ A national evaluation will consider the impact of the new service on overall uptake and/or inequalities, reviewing how the programme has been delivered in practice, and key learning.
- ▶ The service specification was drafted to encompass all core elements of the adult flu vaccination service, and it also includes additional requirements to cover the treatment of children and central supply of the vaccine.
- ▶ If you are delivering the COVID-19 vaccination service, you are required to deliver the adult flu vaccination service, but not this service.

Before you start delivering the service

- ▶ To be able to provide this service you must already be providing:
 - an NHS-commissioned vaccination service; and
 - an NHS-commissioned service that involves the assessment or treatment of children (e.g. Pharmacy First).
- ▶ You must register on MYS. The service will appear on your log-in page.
- ▶ Registration is already open and **you must register by 23:59 on Sunday 31 August to receive vaccine supply in time for the start of the service on 1 October.** You can continue to register after this date until registration closes on Sunday 30 November.
- ▶ You can de-register from this service at any time in line with the terms of the service specification, but you will not be able to re-register for 4 months.
- ▶ You must be signed up to the Federated Data Platform (FDP) to order vaccine.
- ▶ You must be signed up to use the National Booking Service (NBS) to offer bookable appointments, you must have walk-in availability at a variety of times throughout your opening hours, including weekends if you are open.
- ▶ There are several requirements that must be met around service availability, wastage and continued service provision for you to be able to order additional doses of vaccine.
- ▶ All staff involved in the vaccination activity must have completed all required training, be competent to deliver the service to children of this age group and must have an enhanced DBS certificate.

Key details of service delivery (1/2)

Legal mechanism

- ▶ A new and separate PGD will be published to cover the administration of both the LAIV and inactivated vaccines to this age cohort. The PGD will include Pharmacy Technicians.
- ▶ This will be nationally authorised and should be available by the end of August on NHS England's website. (Note: the PGD for the adult service will be authorised regionally and available on regional NHSE websites).
- ▶ There will not be a National Protocol.

Financial arrangements

- ▶ Contractors will be paid £9.58 per vaccine administered.
- ▶ Claims for payment must be made as per the usual process via MYS.

Service availability and appointments

- ▶ You must use NBS and the NHS Pharmacy Finder for this service to support easy/consistent bookings, increase uptake, and enable more accurate stock forecasting.
- ▶ You will be required to list booking slots and walk-in availability at various times, including evenings and Saturdays (if you are open on Saturdays).
- ▶ Service availability is a condition of supply of LAIV. To be able to place orders for LAIV you must:
 - open at least 20 appointments on NBS in the first month that you are delivering the service; and
 - open at least 10 appointments on NBS per month to demonstrate continued service provision.
- ▶ Some children will need two doses of the vaccine. If a child that you vaccinate needs a second dose (later sections will detail who is eligible for a second dose) this can be arranged by directing the parent/guardian to return to NBS.

Key details of service delivery (2/2)

Offsite delivery

- ▶ As for the adult service, you can deliver this service away from your pharmacy, providing there is an appropriate framework of clinical governance and oversight in place that links the staff working offsite to the Responsible Pharmacist or Superintendent Pharmacist. A pharmacist does not need to be onsite for this service to be delivered away from the pharmacy.
- ▶ You must have agreement from your commissioner (your NHSE Regional Team) to be able to deliver the service at a location away from your pharmacy. This process will be set up regionally.
- ▶ Please ensure your professional indemnity covers any offsite delivery of this service.

Withdrawing from the service

- ▶ If you would like to de-register from the service, you can do this via MYS.
- ▶ You must give 30 days' notice before you stop providing the service and you must continue to provide the service during the notice period. This does not apply to those who de-register before 1 October 2025.
- ▶ If you choose to de-register, you will not be able to re-register for 4 months. Depending on the timing of this de-registration, you may then be unable to provide the service again in 2025/26 as registration will close on 30 November 2025. Please bear this in mind when considering withdrawing from the service.

Clinical knowledge and training resources

David Onuoha

Service Development Manager,
Community Pharmacy England

Vaccine selection and dosage requirements

Recommended vaccines

- ▶ First line vaccine = live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV) nasal spray
 - ▶ Provided free of charge by NHS England
 - ▶ Ordered using FDP
 - ▶ LAIV will not be reimbursed
- ▶ Second line vaccine = cell-cultured inactivated influenza vaccine (IIVc, previously TIVc)
 - ▶ Used if LAIV is contraindicated, or otherwise unsuitable (e.g. parents object because of its porcine gelatine content)
 - ▶ Not centrally supplied - should be ordered from the manufacturer/wholesaler directly
 - ▶ Will be reimbursed following the usual process
- ▶ Priority is to provide first line
- ▶ No third line vaccine as part of this service; **egg-culture inactivated vaccines must not be administered**

Dosage

For children who are not in a clinical risk group:

- ▶ Offered **one dose** of LAIV per season, unless contraindicated, irrespective of vaccination in previous seasons
- ▶ Both SPCs recommend a second dose at least 4 weeks. However, JCVI has advised that children not in a clinical risk group only require a single dose of LAIV or IIVc

For children who are in a clinical risk group or who are household contacts of individuals with immunosuppression:

- ▶ If never had a flu vaccine before – **provide their first dose** and offer **a second dose of LAIV at least 4 weeks after their first dose**
- ▶ Offered LAIV (unless medically contraindicated or otherwise unsuitable)
- ▶ If LAIV is unavailable for the second dose, IIVc can be given
- ▶ Children who have received one or more doses of any flu vaccine before are considered as previously vaccinated

Considerations when administering LAIV

- ▶ The individual can breathe normally during vaccine administration, and they do not need to actively inhale or sniff.
- ▶ You do not need to administer LAIV again if the child sneezes or blows their nose immediately following administration.
- ▶ An incomplete dose of LAIV does not need to be repeated as long as at least 0.1ml of the vaccine has been given intranasally, as each half dose (0.1ml) contains enough viral particles to induce an immune response.

Precautions and contraindications

- ▶ JCVI advice children with an egg allergy (except for those with severe anaphylaxis to egg which has previously required intensive care) can be safely vaccinated with LAIV in any setting
- ▶ Fluenz[®] is contraindicated in children with severe asthma, however, JCVI have advised that children with asthma on inhaled corticosteroids may safely be given LAIV, irrespective of the dose prescribed

Shedding of vaccine virus

- ▶ Vaccinated children are known to shed virus for a few days after vaccination
- ▶ Shed virus is less able to spread from person-to-person than the natural infection
- ▶ Amount of virus shed is normally below the levels needed to pass on infection to others
- ▶ Virus does not survive for long outside of the body

Transmission of vaccine virus in LAIV

- ▶ Theoretical potential risk of transmission of the live attenuated flu virus in LAIV to very severely immunosuppressed contacts for 1 to 2 weeks following vaccination
- ▶ No reported instances of illness or infections from the vaccine virus among immunosuppressed patients inadvertently exposed in UK

Further information to support healthcare professionals is available in the [“Flu vaccination programme 2025 to 2026: healthcare practitioners”](#) guidance.

Resources to supplement clinical skills, knowledge and training

- ▶ All vaccinators need to:
 - complete training which meets the [National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training](#); and
 - be competent to administer vaccines to children aged 2 and 3 years using both LAIV and IIVc.
- ▶ Additional resources available:
 - [Annual flu programme](#), particularly the “information for healthcare practitioners” guidance document
 - Learning resources - CPPE ([Vaccination Services : CPPE](#))
 - [AstraZeneca – Fluenz for healthcare professionals](#) includes a video and resources on administering the Fluenz® nasal spray vaccine to children
 - [UKHSA – Flu vaccines for children and young people](#)
 - [UKHSA – Vaccines and porcine gelatine](#) - provides information about vaccines that contain porcine gelatine and any alternatives that are available
 - [UKHSA – Protect your child against flu](#) provides information for parents and carers to support promotion of the service

Supply of LAIV

Bethany Sharrock

Regional Allocations Manager, NHS
England

Supply of vaccine

Initial Supply of LAIV Vaccine

- ▶ The LAIV nasal spray is centrally supplied as a nasal spray for children. The LAIV ordering process is via FDP.
- ▶ Pharmacies signing up to the service prior to the 31 August will automatically be provided with one pack of LAIV (10 doses) to be delivered during September.
- ▶ Doses will have a minimum of 15 weeks shelf life on delivery.
- ▶ Delivery dates and ETAs will be visible in FDP Supply Dashboard.
- ▶ **Pharmacies must register for FDP and confirm their site details are correct before vaccine will be released.**
- ▶ The NHSE supply team are hosting supply drop-in sessions throughout September to support providers from a supply perspective.

Ongoing Supply of LAIV Vaccine

- ▶ Additional doses can be requested through the FDP supply dashboard.
- ▶ Delivery dates and ETA's will be visible in FDP Supply Dashboard.
- ▶ For additional vaccine requests to be approved, pharmacies must meet the requirements as set out in the service specification, which include:
 - the pharmacy has recorded administration of at least 50% of the previously supplied doses; and
 - current stock levels are confirmed to be below 1 pack (10 doses); and
 - a minimum of 20 appointments available on NBS during first month of service provision and a minimum of 10 appointments in subsequent months;
- Or:
 - NBS booked appointments indicate a need for additional supply.

FDP Supply Drop-in sessions

- ▶ The national team are hosting a series of informal drop-in sessions for Providers, Regions & ICBs. These sessions will aim to address any specific FDP queries that users may have in relation to vaccine supply for COVID and Child Flu, ahead of the AW25 campaign.
- ▶ ***Please note**, FDP users are advised to log onto FDP and familiarise themselves with the training documentation, in advance of the session, where possible:
 - Link to **request access to FDP** is [here](#)
 - Link to **FDP training** is [here](#)

Audience	Date and time	Registration link
Providers – session 1	Tuesday 26 August, at 15:00	Register for PROVIDERs session 1, here.
Providers – session 2	Friday 29 August, at 10:30	Register for PROVIDERs session 2, here.
Providers – session 3	Tuesday 2 Sept, at 15:00	Register for PROVIDERs session 3, here.
Regions & ICBs	Friday 5 Sept, at 10:00	Register for REGION & ICB session 1, here.
Providers – session 4	Friday 5 Sept, at 11:00	Register for PROVIDERs session 4, here.
Providers – session 5	Tuesday 9 Sept, at 15:00	Register for PROVIDERs session 5, here.
Providers – session 6	Friday 12 Sept, at 11:00	Register for PROVIDERs session 6, here.
Providers – session 7	Tuesday 16 Sept, at 15:00	Register for PROVIDERs session 7, here.
Regions & ICBs	Wednesday 17 Sept, at 16:00	Register for REGIONS & ICBs session 2, here.
Providers – session 8	Friday 19 Sept, at 11:00	Register for PROVIDERs session 8, here.
Providers – session 9	Tuesday 23 Sept, at 15:00	Register for PROVIDERs session 9, here.
Providers – evening session	Wednesday 24 Sept, at 19:00	Register for PROVIDERs EVENING session, here.
Providers – session 10	Friday 26 Sept, at 11:00	Register for PROVIDERs session 10, here.

Digital capabilities

Steve Finch

Digital Care Pathway Owner Seasonal
Vaccinations, NHS England

Systems required for this service

Systems you will need to use as part of this service:

- NHSBSA's Manage Your Service (MYS)** portal – for signing up and claiming payment
- Federated Data Platform (FDP)** – for ordering vaccine
- National Booking Service (NBS)** – for offering a set number of appointments each month
- NHS Pharmacy Finder** – for advertising walk-in availability
- NHS-assured point of care system** – to record vaccinations

Booking

- Use of the National Booking Service (NBS) is required. The national invitation programme directs eligible citizens to NBS to find and book a convenient flu appointment (in addition to COVID and RSV).
- Sites will use the Manage Your Appointment (MYA) system to set up service availability to be published to NBS. A site manager must provide a nhs.net email address for the initial set-up, then training and [guidance](#) is available. Existing users can simply add the flu 2/3 years service type.

NHS Website

- '[Find a pharmacy that offers free flu vaccination](#)' will signpost citizens to pharmacies near to them that offer flu vaccinations for children, adults, or both.
- To be included, pharmacies must use [Profile Manager](#) to indicate which age ranges they can vaccinate and which access types they offer (walk-in, book via NBS, book on own website, book via telephone).

Point of Care Systems

- A Point of Care System must be used to record vaccinations. The approved list of systems is published [online](#) with assurance status regularly updated. System assurance is being undertaken for the forthcoming campaign with all approved suppliers expected to be completed before the start of October.

Onboarding and operational set-up

Jane Devenish

Head of Implementation, NHS England

Onboarding and operational set-up

Assess feasibility

- Review the Service Specification and Site Campaign Guide
- Assess ability to deliver the service and plan activity to meet competences
- Check that your premises will be suitable and can accommodate this age cohort
- As soon as you're ready, declare your intention to provide the service on NHS BSA Manage Your Service (MYS)

Get access to systems

- Request system access (if no current access):
 - Manage Your Appointments (MYA) for bookings
 - FDP for vaccine supply and reporting
 - *Role: Site ops and supply chain vaccination site user*
 - Point of care system

Set up

- Update NHS Profile Manager Children 2 – 3 years; Walk-in; National Booking Service
- Set up additional users on MYA, check site details,
 - Create available for Flu 2-3 for appointments from 1 October
- Log onto FDP Supply Dashboard and check delivery details are correct
- Review and order materials, anaphylaxis kits, promotional materials etc.
- Update Standard Operating Procedures and authorise PGDs (when published)

Monitor

- Weekly vaccine stocktakes onto FDP
- Sufficient vaccine to offer both bookings made and opportunistic vaccinations
- Sufficient appointment availability to offer a choice of times and dates

Key operational dates

Date	Action
18 August	Manage Your Appointments opened for sites to post National Booking Service (NBS) appointments ahead of NBS opening for bookings from the public from 1 September for vaccinations from 1 October.
21, 27, 29 August 2, 4, 9, 12, 17, 23, 29 September	Manage Your Appointments on NBS training webinars. Book at NHS Future FDP User training - Site users
26, 29 August 2, 5, 9, 12, 16, 19, 23, 24, 26 September	FDP drop-in sessions. The national team will host drop-in sessions for providers to address FDP queries around vaccine supply for COVID-19 and child flu.
31 August	Community pharmacy childhood flu vaccination service deadline: Pharmacies must register on Manage Your Service (MYS) to be able to get vaccine supply for 1 October. Registration will remain open until 30 November 2025 for those wishing to join the programme later.
1 September	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NBS opens for the public to make bookings for appointments from 1 October. • 119 opens for the public unable to use digital assets to access non-clinical telephone support, including making a booking.
12 September	FDP confirmation dead-line: Sites to receive pharmacy LAIV first allocation vaccine in w/c 15, 22 or 29 September must have confirmed details are correct on the Supply Dashboard.
15 September	Pharmacy LAIV first allocation delivery dates confirmed on Supply Dashboard for sites receiving deliveries from 15 - 30 September.
w/c 22 September	National childhood flu invites for parents of 2-3 year-olds. Two reminders will follow, each at three-week intervals.
26 September	Vaccine request process commences for pharmacy LAIV.
1 October	Community pharmacy childhood flu vaccination service commences.
31 March	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of flu campaign: Seasonal flu vaccinations should not be administered after this point • End of NBS Flu Bookings: Last bookings can be made on 30 March for final appointments on 31 March.

You can find more information and links to the key documents at cpe.org.uk/childhoodflu

