

London Region
Southside
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Dear Colleague,

Re: Seasonal Influenza ('flu) Vaccination for Individuals in Clinical Risk Groups

We are writing to your organisation with a reminder of the eligibility of your beneficiaries for the seasonal 'flu vaccination.

The 'flu vaccine is available to individuals with certain clinical indications; as they are at **increased risk of serious complications** from 'flu. We request your help in raising awareness of the importance of protection through immunisation among those who are most vulnerable.

Eligible people can access 'flu vaccination **free of charge** from their GP and local London pharmacy – a list of pharmacies offering the jab is available here: www.myhealth.london.nhs.uk/news-events/news/london-pharmacies-offering-flu-jabs

People of any age living with the following conditions are eligible for free 'flu vaccination:

- **Chronic respiratory disease**; including asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), chronic bronchitis and emphysema and children who have previously been admitted to hospital for lower respiratory tract disease.
- **Chronic heart disease**; including congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, chronic heart failure, individuals requiring regular medication and/or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease.
- **Chronic kidney disease**; including those at stage 3, 4 or 5, chronic kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, kidney transplantation.
- **Chronic liver disease**; cirrhosis, biliary atresia, chronic hepatitis
- **Chronic neurological disease**; including stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA), polio syndrome sufferers, cerebral palsy, learning difficulties, multiple sclerosis and related or similar conditions; or hereditary and degenerative disease of the nervous system or muscles; or severe neurological disability.

- **Diabetes**; type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs and diet controlled diabetes.
- **Immunosuppression**; due to disease or treatment, including patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, bone marrow transplant, HIV infection at all stages, multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system, individuals treated with systemic steroids for more than a month
- **Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen**; also including conditions such as homozygous sickle cell disease and coeliac syndrome.
- **Pregnant women**; at any stage of pregnancy

Please raise awareness amongst your beneficiaries of the opportunity and recommendation of seasonal 'flu vaccination. We also emphasize that the 'flu immunisation is **available for carers** of individuals living with the medical conditions listed above.

Yours faithfully,



Samantha Westrop

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Population Health Practitioner
Immunisations Coordinator