



Report sponsor: Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health

Report author: Lewis Talbot, Vaccination Operations Lead, NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board

## **ITEM 5c**

### **COVID and Flu Autumn/Winter Programme 2023/24**

#### **Purpose**

- 1.1 To provide the Health and Wellbeing Board with an overview of the delivery of the COVID and Flu Autumn/ Winter Programme 2023/24 in Derby.

#### **Recommendation**

- 2.1 To note the contents of the report.

#### **Reason**

- 3.1 To ensure that Health and Wellbeing Board members are aware of the COVID and Flu Autumn/ Winter Programme 2023/24.
- 3.2 To support the Health and Board in delivering its responsibilities in protecting the health of local people.

#### **Supporting information**

- 4.1 Health conditions such as asthma can be caused or worsened by cold weather (The Health Foundation<sup>1</sup>). Additionally, prevalence of seasonal respiratory viruses such as flu, respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and COVID-19 increase in autumn and winter.
- 4.2 Respiratory diseases are a major factor in winter pressures faced by the NHS; most respiratory admissions are non-elective and during winter these double in number (NHS England<sup>2</sup>).
- 4.3 The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA), in its recent winter briefing<sup>3</sup>, set out potentially 'serious impacts of flu ahead of winter' and urged vulnerable groups to take up the flu vaccine. The briefing also reported that data shows last year's programme prevented around 25,000 hospitalisations in England. Even with this, over 14,000 excess winter deaths from flu were recorded.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.org.uk/news-and-comment/featured-content/nhs-winter-pressure> accessed 30/10/2023

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/ourwork/clinical-policy/respiratory-disease/> accessed 30/10/2023

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/ukhsa-winter-briefing> accessed 30/10/2023

- 4.4 The flu and COVID-19 vaccination programmes help to protect eligible populations from severe illness and also mitigate the pressures faced by the NHS and social care during winter.
- 4.5 The COVID and Flu Autumn/Winter Programme 2023/24 started in early September with the COVID vaccination programme ending in December 2023 and Flu programme at the end of March 2024.
- 4.6 During the period 11/09/2023 to 09/10/2023, the following vaccinations were undertaken across Derby and Derbyshire:
- 159,127 (32.12% of those eligible<sup>4</sup>) COVID-19 vaccinations
  - 215,004 (34.37% of those eligible<sup>5</sup>) Flu vaccinations.
- 4.7 There are currently 19 vaccination sites across Derby delivering the COVID vaccinations:
- 15 Community Pharmacies
  - 2 Primary Care Networks (PCNs)
  - 2 Hospital Hubs.

A further five Community Pharmacy sites will go live by November.

All Community Pharmacy, General Practice and Hospital sites have opted into the flu programme in Derbyshire.

- 4.8 Areas of concern and mitigating action:
- A new School Aged Immunisation Services provider (commissioned by NHS England) commenced operations on 01/09/2023. They are building relationships with schools and have commenced provision of flu vaccination. Local support has been offered to resolve operational challenges.
  - There are additional payments to providers for the Autumn/Winter COVID Programme in support bringing forward the programme. These payments cease after 31/10/2023. This may result in providers stopping vaccinating due to financial viability. The local Joined Up Care Derbyshire (JUCD) Vaccination Operation Cell (VOC) will complete a review of expected provision post 31/10/2023. Any gaps in provision will be reviewed on an individual basis.
  - As part of the accelerated programme for COVID there is a requirement to vaccinate all care home residents by the 22/10/2023. Care home completion has been slower than other systems in the Midlands. Work is ongoing with all care home providers and JUCD VOC are assured they will be completed by the acceleration deadline.
  - Due to a number of issues some of the new sites have yet started delivery. The JUCD VOC team are working closely with these sites to ensure they are operational as soon as possible.

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<sup>4</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/COVID-19/COVID-19-vaccination/getting-a-COVID-19-vaccine/>

<sup>5</sup> <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>

## Public/stakeholder engagement

- 5.1 There is ongoing engagement with local communities and groups to support informed decision making in relation to vaccination uptake.

## Other options

- 6.1 None.

## Financial and value for money issues

- 7.1 None arising from this report.

## Legal implications

- 8.1 None arising from this report.

## Socio-Economic implications

- 9.1 None arising from this report.

## Climate implications

- 10.1 None arising from this report.

## Other significant implications

- 11.1 Low uptake of COVID and Flu vaccinations is likely to lead to severe illness and excess winter deaths in vulnerable groups and increased pressure on local NHS and care provision. There is therefore ongoing effort to ensure effective local delivery of the COVID and Flu Autumn/ Winter Programme 2023/24.

This report has been approved by the following people:

Role	Name	Date of sign-off
Legal Finance Service Director(s) Report sponsor Other(s)	Robyn Dewis, Director of Public Health Kirsty Ball, Head of Vaccination and Population Health, NHS Derby and Derbyshire Integrated Care Board Siobhan Horsley, Consultant in Public Health	30/10/2023
Background papers: List of appendices:	COVID and Flu Autumn/Winter Programme 2023/24 slides	