



Changes to Flu service



Changes to this year's Flu Vaccination Service - how do these affect you?

Long version

Budbrooke Medical Centre encourages everyone who is eligible to receive a vaccination against flu on the NHS to take advantage of this. Flu is a nasty virus which can cause unpleasant symptoms such as fever, headache, cough, muscle pain and extreme fatigue. Flu can also lead to complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia, and the impact of these conditions can be significant.

Every year, the strains of flu are monitored and the likely evolution of the disease is mapped. This process leads to the development of the vaccination each year. This makes the vaccines as effective as possible as they are designed to target the most common flu strains each year.

This year, the national programme includes an adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine (aTIV) vaccine for those people over the age of 65 years. This vaccine has been used widely in Europe, Canada and the US and has been shown to offer a greater level of protection than the vaccine used previously for people of this age.

Those aged between 18 and 65, who are at risk of catching flu, will receive a quadrivalent vaccine (QIV) which protects against four strains of flu.

Children eligible for a vaccination should receive a quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), which is a nasal vaccine. All children who were born on or after 1st September 2014 and on or before 31st August 2016 are eligible for vaccine at Budbrooke Medical Centre. (All primary school aged children born between 1.9.2008 and 31.8.2014 will be offered vaccination at school). It is important to note that the effectiveness of this vaccine is good and that children under the age of 5 have the highest rate of hospital admission for flu of all age groups.

During previous years flu vaccination programmes the clinical advice has been that all adults received the same type of vaccine, which fitted with our tried and tested method of offering clinics. However, the range of vaccines, along with a planned slower supply for the aTIV vaccination (for those aged 65 and over on 31st March 2019), means that we will be asking patients to book an appointment for their vaccination.

The practice has ordered enough vaccines to immunise those eligible patients who wish to be vaccinated. However, nationally the delivery of the aTIV will be spread out over September, October and November.

Please help us by booking an appointment for your flu vaccination when invited to do so.

Shorter version

Flu is a nasty virus which can cause unpleasant symptoms and can lead to complications such as bronchitis and pneumonia which is why it's important to take up the offer of a flu vaccine.

Every year, the strains of flu are monitored and the likely evolution of the disease is mapped to help ensure the annual vaccine targets the most common flu strains.

This year, the national programme includes an adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine (aTIV) vaccine for those people over the age of 65 years. This vaccine has been used widely in other countries and has been shown to offer a greater level of protection than previous vaccines for people of this age.

Those aged between 18 and 65, who are at risk of catching flu, will receive a quadrivalent vaccine (QIV) which protects against four strains of flu.

Children eligible for a vaccination should receive a quadrivalent live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV), which is a nasal vaccine. All children who were born on or after 1st September 2014 and on or before 31st August 2016 are eligible for vaccine at Budbrooke Medical Centre as well as those older children who receive a letter of invitation for flu vaccine. Primary school aged children born between 1.9.2008 and 31.8.2014 will be offered vaccination at school. The effectiveness of this vaccine is good and children under the age of 5 have the highest rate of hospital admission for flu of all age groups so the vaccine is a worthwhile precaution.

Because of the variety of vaccines being given this year, along with a planned slower supply of the vaccine for those aged 65+ all patients need to book an appointment for their vaccination.

We have ordered enough vaccines to immunise all eligible patients but appointments will be spread from Sept - Nov. The most vulnerable patients will be prioritised. Please help us by booking an appointment for your flu vaccination when invited to do so, even if that is later than in previous years.