

18th July 2022

To all practices in Surrey & Sussex LMCs

DHSC Announcements regarding 2022/23 Seasonal Flu Programme and Covid19 Vaccine Autumn Booster

I am writing to all colleagues to highlight the announcement by the DHSC that the 2022/23 seasonal flu NHS vaccine eligibility will include all 50-64 year-olds, as well as secondary school age children, although General Practice will not be expected to vaccinate the latter. These cohorts can expect to be offered vaccination later in the autumn, once more vulnerable eligible cohorts have been offered a vaccine.

Clearly this is unhelpful given the earlier, and at the time unexpected, (see my letter of 7th March 2022), guidance that the 50 – 64 age cohorts were not being included; the LMC is aware practices have in many cases cancelled stock orders that were considered surplus to requirements and are also already making plans for their flu season clinics.

The explanation given for this recommendation by the JCVI is that it follows monitoring of the Australian flu season.

Colleagues will be aware that the Phase 5 Enhanced Service COVID-19 Vaccination specification was released at the end of June, with optional sign up requested by Thursday 14th July. This programme will be delivered by a Collaborative Group model, as for previous COVID Vaccination Programmes.

The Seasonal Flu immunisation Enhanced Service has not yet been published, although is awaited, but is unlikely to include any major changes in terms of logistics, delivery and vaccine administration. It may however offer assistance in terms of flu co-administration with Covid vaccine for patients not registered with practices within the Collaborative Group. I will circulate this Enhanced Service as soon as it is available and the LMC's Flu Guide is being updated and will be available shortly, after final details are available.

The LMC understands no central stock ordering supply is planned for this year and therefore practices will need to try and order additional supplies through their normal supplier(s).

Local Medical Committees for
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The letter from NHS England confirming these arrangements is available at:-

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/publication/covid-19-autumn-booster-and-flu-vaccine-programme-expansion/>

Details of the JCVI announcement are available at :-

[Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\) updated statement on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for autumn 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-updated-statement-on-the-covid-19-vaccination-programme-for-autumn-2022)

I hope this background, whilst I appreciate it is unwanted news, is useful

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julius', is positioned above the printed name and title.

Dr Julius Parker
Chief Executive