Autumn/Winter Vaccination Programme 2026/27

Presentation for NISCC Social Care Managers Forum

17th November 2026

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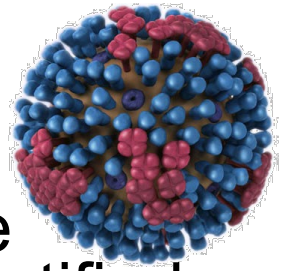
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Agenda

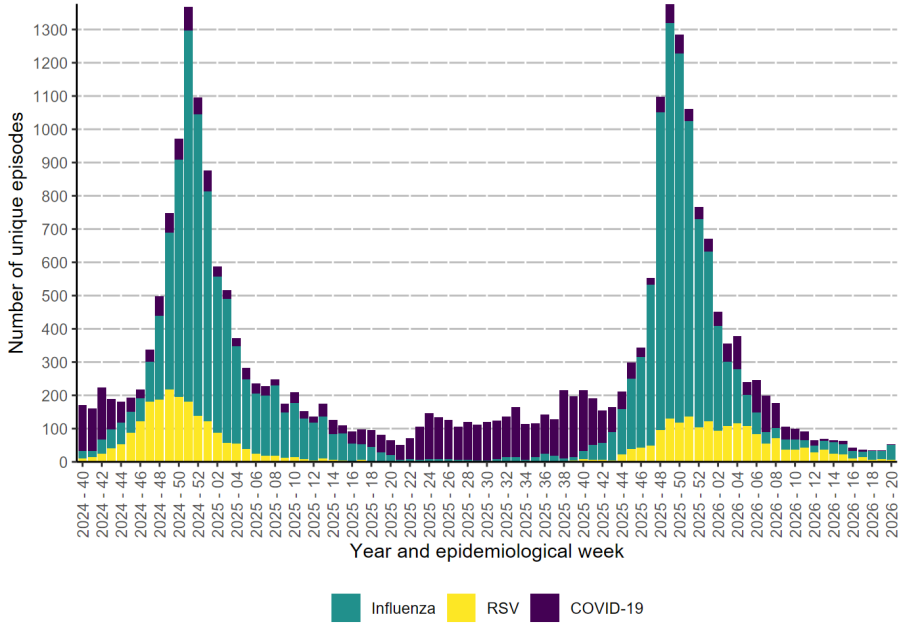
1. Flu – the facts
2. Overview of 2026/27 programme
3. Uptake rates for care home staff
4. Role of health and social care workers re: vaccination
5. What **you** can do to improve vaccine uptake
6. Are you ready?

1. Flu – the facts



- **Influenza (flu)** – a viral illness that is particularly severe in certain groups (young children, older adults, pregnant women, people with underlying health conditions)
  - High temperature, chills, fatigue, cough, headaches, other serious complications which can be deadly
  - When an infected person coughs, sneezes, or talks, the virus can travel through the air and infect others nearby
  - It can also live on hands and surfaces for up to 24 hours
  - Flu viruses are constantly changing, so you can get the flu many times and may not have resistance to new versions.

- There were 7,810 unique **episodes** of influenza identified in N.I last year

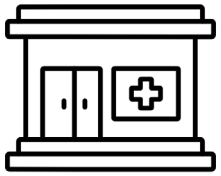


- There were 2,198 influenza and/or pneumonia **deaths** *(18.7% of deaths)*

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2. Overview of 2026/27 programme



Community pharmacies

Care Home Residents and Staff



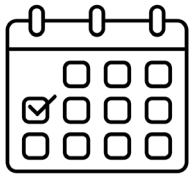
GP practices

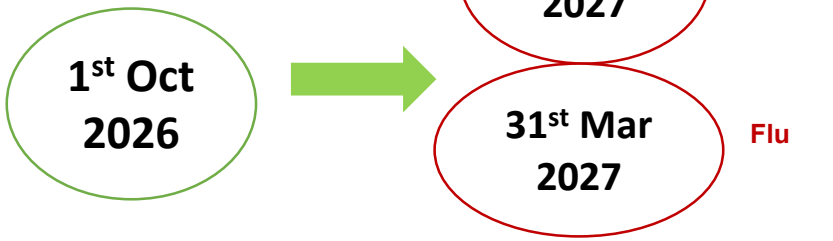
Care home staff (if otherwise eligible)



HSC Trust vaccination clinics

Care home staff





Care home programme aims to complete by **mid-Nov?**

Flu	COVID-19
65's and over	75's and over
All Care home residents & staff	All care home residents
Clinically at risk individuals (6mths +)	Immunosuppressed individuals (6mths +)
Pregnant women	
Health and social care workers	
Pre-school children	
School children (up to year 12)	
Close contacts immunosuppressed	
Carers	
High risk poultry/avian & cattle/swine animal health workers	
Rough sleepers and homeless hostel users	

The best thing you can do to **protect yourself** and your **residents** is to facilitate and encourage the autumn vaccination programme

Although the vaccine isn't 100% effective, it lowers the chances of having severe complications from the flu. This is especially true for people who are at high risk of flu complications.

- Vaccine effectiveness results show that 2025/26 influenza vaccinations offered protection against hospitalisation:

~61% in children

~15% in adults aged 18 - 64

~30% in adults 65+

Side effects

Usually mild:

Muscle aches

Fever

Pain at site

Allergy - rare

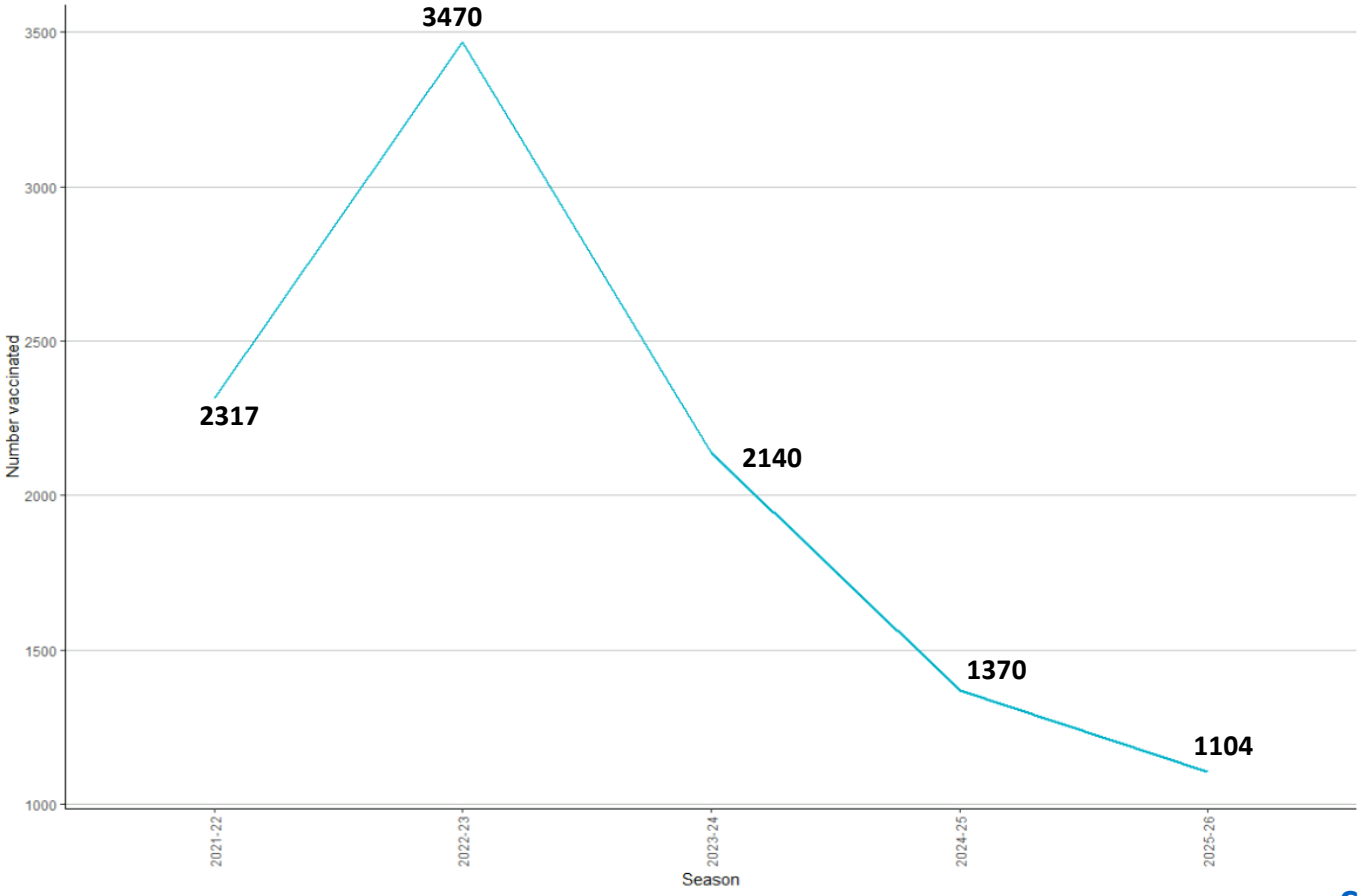


Complications of flu are much worse, and more common than vaccine side effects

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3. Care Home Staff uptake: ’21/22 to ‘25/26



DoH target for 2026/27

“We expect all…to build on their improvements and strive to achieve an indicative target of 50% vaccination uptake in relevant staff, including staff within Independent Sector (such as Home Care and Care Home providers and others as relevant) being provided with a vaccination”

Source: HSS(MD) 30 2026 - THE 2026 2027 SEASONAL INFLUENZA VACCINATION PROGRAMME.pdf

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4. Role of HSCWs

- health professionals have a **duty of care** to protect patients and service users from infections
- flu vaccination **reduces transmission** of influenza to:
  - HSCWs (those involved in directly delivering Health and Social Care (HSC) services are at increased risk of exposure to influenza)
  - vulnerable patients, who may have impaired immunity and not respond well to immunisation
  - colleagues and family members
- flu vaccine uptake in HSCWs **significantly lowers rates** of flu-like illness, hospitalisation and mortality in elderly individuals in long-term healthcare settings
- flu vaccination **reduces sickness absences** and contributes to delivery of health and social care services during winter pressures



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5. What <u>you</u> can do to improve uptake



- Be seen to support vaccination: **lead by example**
- Be a champion: **talk positively** about vaccination within the care home; with residents, their families and staff
- **Support access**: encourage **staff** to get the flu jab when pharmacist is in attendance at the care home (and also, <u>promote the alternative measures</u>, i.e. Trust vaccination teams or drop-in at local community pharmacy)

(**Advise vaccinator you are a care home worker**)

- **Celebrate success**: acknowledge areas or departments that achieve high uptake



<u>Make every contact count</u>

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Comms resources

Various assets designed to assist and extend the reach of campaign messaging, e.g. digital email signatures and/or web banners, editable posters and editable social resources. Printed resources also (new social care poster and HSCW leaflet)



Social care email signature/web banner



Editable A3 poster



'Have you had your flu jab yet?' social media 1:1



Editable 'Have you had your flu jab yet? social media 1:1

Thank you

Questions

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