

CENTRAL BEDFORDSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

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Flu Vaccination Uptake in 2017-18 in Central Bedfordshire

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Public

Purpose of this report

1. This report gives an overview of flu vaccination uptake in 2017-18 in Central Bedfordshire Council with the maximum possible implementation of locally planned actions.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to:

1. note this year's performance along with the gaps; and
2. note the proposed actions below and provide support to intensify efforts to increase uptake amongst eligible groups.

Issues

2. The annual Flu immunisation programme is a critical element of the system-wide approach for delivering robust and resilient health and social care services, helping to reduce unplanned hospital admissions and prevent avoidable deaths; and reduced impact on wider economy due to increased absenteeism. This report gives an overview of flu vaccination uptake in 2017-18 in Central Bedfordshire Council with the maximum possible implementation of locally planned actions.
3. In 2018/19 the one change in eligibility is the extension to an additional cohort of children, those in school year 5. Therefore, in 2018/19 the following are eligible for flu vaccination (Annual national flu immunisation program 2018-19):

- all children aged two to nine (but not ten years or older) on 31 August 2018
- all primary school-aged children in former primary school pilot areas
- those aged six months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- those aged 65 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers.

4. In addition, vaccination is recommended for frontline health and social care workers

Vaccine uptake ambitions for 2018-19

Eligible groups	Uptake Ambition
Routine program	
Aged 65 years and over	75%, reflecting the World Health Organization (WHO) target for this group.
Aged under 65 'at risk', including pregnant women	At least 55% in all clinical risk groups* and maintaining higher rates where those have already been achieved. Ultimately the aim is to achieve at least a 75% uptake in these groups given their increased risk of morbidity and mortality from flu.
Childrens' program	
Preschool children aged 2 and 3 years old	At least 48% with most practices aiming to achieve higher.
School aged children (in reception class & years 1 to 5)	An average of at least 65% to be attained by every provider across all years.
Healthcare workers	70% of healthcare workers with direct patient contact

* interim ambition

Vaccine uptake for 2017/2018

5. The data presented below is from the final survey for 2017-18 flu season (ImmForm). It provides comparable data against national uptake, CCG uptake and against the previous season.

6. In keeping with the national and regional picture, uptake of the flu vaccine was generally higher in 2017-18 than in 2016-17 (See table 1-4). However, most are failing to meet the vaccine ambition uptake for the majority of the eligible groups (with the exception of 2 and 3-year olds and healthcare workers at Bedford Hospital and Luton & Dunstable Hospital)

Eligible groups for flu vaccination

7. Compared to previous years, Bedfordshire have reported some improvement in vaccine uptake amongst people aged 65, those in clinical risk groups, carers and pregnant women with significant improvement observed across the school-based programme (Years 1-4) in Bedford. A drop-in vaccine uptake was observed amongst children aged 2 and 3 but this group still met their ambition target of 48%.

Table 1. Flu vaccine uptake amongst over 65s, under 65s in at risk groups, pregnant women and carers.

CCG	Over 65s		Under 65s at risk		Pregnant women		Carers	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
NHS Bedfordshire CCG	71.5	72.9	48.5	49.6	52.8	54.3	39.0	40.7
NHS Milton Keynes CCG	70.3	72.2	47.2	50.5	43.5	43.5	36.5	37.3
NHS Luton CCG	67.5	68.3	47.2	47.5	42.2	40.3	42.7	41.0
NHS East and North Herts CCG	72.2	74.1	48.1	48.8	52.0	54.1	39.2	41.5
NHS Herts Valley CCG	73.0	72.4	49.6	48.3	45.7	44.7	45.6	44.2
England	70.4	72.6	48.7	48.9	44.8	47.2		

Note 100% of Bedfordshire GP practices participated in the GP Flu main survey

Table 2: Childhood GP Flu programme (Aged 2 and 3 years).

CCG	Aged 2 years		Aged 3 years	
	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18
NHS Bedfordshire CCG	49.8	49.5	52.0	49.4
NHS Milton Keynes CCG	40.5	45.0	44.7	45.5
NHS Luton CCG	27.4	33.1	33.0	34.2
NHS East and North Herts CCG	48.1	51.4	49.6	50.8
NHS Herts Valley CCG	48.1	49.6	47.7	49.4
England	38.9	42.8	41.5	44.2

Note: 96.1% of Bedfordshire GP practices participated in the Childhood GP Flu Survey

Table 3: School based Flu programme (Reception – Year 4)

	Reception	Year 1		Year 2		Year 3		Year 4
Local Authority	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2016/17	2017/18	2017/18
Bedford	60.9	46.0	58.3	47.8	55.9	46.0	54.4	54.5
Central Bedfordshire	69.0	70.1	67.4	67.8	67.1	63.0	64.8	63.9
Milton Keynes	59.7	55.3	58.3	53.5	57.0	51.4	51.5	51.4
Luton	38.9	32.7	37.8	28.3	36.1	26.8	32.4	32.3
Hertfordshire	62.0	60.9	58.9	59.0	58.3	56.0	55.9	53.3
Midlands and East	60.4	53.0	58.4	51.3	57.8	48.6	55.0	53.5
England	62.6	57.0	60.9	55.0	60.3	52.7	57.5	55.7

Health care workers

8. Health Care Workers with direct patient care with providers are also eligible for a flu vaccine. In this flu season organisations had a financial incentive (CQUIN) to vaccinate 70-75% of their staff. Unfortunately, the Health Care Worker Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Uptake Survey findings are limited at CCG level -the provider response rate in Bedfordshire was 54.7% (down by 11.3% compared to last years).
9. With respect to NHS Trusts, uptake of the flu vaccine amongst healthcare workers was 74.5% in Bedford Hospital NHS Trust. Although quite good, this was a drop compared to the last flu season (79%). In comparison Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust achieved 76.1 %, which was an improvement on last year (71.5%).

Table 4. Flu vaccine uptake amongst health care workers with direct patient care by CCG levels and Hospital NHS Trust.

ORG NAME	% OF HCWS	NHS TRUST	% OF HCWS	% OF HCWS
	2017/18		2016/17	2017/18
NHS BEDFORDSHIRECCG	58.1	Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	79.0	74.5
NHS MILTON KEYNES CCG	66.2	Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	78.7	78.1
NHS LUTON CCG	49.8	Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	71.5	76.1

Flu vaccinations in Primary Care

10. The Herts, Milton Keynes, Luton and Bedfordshire Flu group were responsible for reviewing weekly sentinel data to highlight any issues in uptake at practice level. In Bedford, no concerns with uptake were highlighted. Any issues would have been addressed via the relevant CCG lead attending the flu group, which would have been escalated to the immunisation team if they experienced any difficulties working with the practices.
11. At practice level, no data uploading issues were noted. ImmForm automatically extracts the relevant information from System1. At the beginning of the Flu programme, there was uploading issue with Immform, which meant that published figures were delayed until December 2017.

Flu planning for 218/19

12. The Screening and Immunisation Team is actively planning the flu vaccination programme for 2018/19 across the Midlands and East area; which includes chairing the bi-monthly Flu Planning and Implementation Group (more frequent during flu delivery). This group exists to support the planning and delivery of the flu vaccination programme. Members from Central Bedfordshire include representation from Primary Care, local authority, Local Pharmaceutical Committee and Local Medical Committee.
13. Key priorities areas have been identified for the group which includes;
 - Ensuring providers have ordered the new flu vaccine (Adjuvanted Trivalent Flu) for the 65 years + (approximately 65% of their eligible population).
 - Improving datasets for pregnant women and individuals with learning disabilities.
 - Identifying variation in flu uptake across regions / organisations and establishing barriers / incentives to improve uptake.
 - Establishing a joint flu communications plan ahead of the flu campaign launch including communicating uptake in each eligible group with providers.
 - Delivering events for the planning of the flu programme between Primary care and Pharmacy, including flu awareness training to increase opportunities for promoting flu vaccination.
 - Engaging with hospital providers to help promote flu vaccine to patients with clinical risk conditions.
 - Supporting the school immunisation team to communicate with schools and Headteachers on the flu programme.

Options for consideration

14. Central Bedfordshire is still falling short of the national targets. There are wide gaps to meet especially in at risk groups who are under 65 years of age, in pregnant women and carers residing within Bedford Borough council.

Financial and Risk Implications

15. The majority of the recommendations are about working more effectively and efficiently and making the most of every opportunity to influence our eligible population to understand the benefits and consent to receive vaccination.
16. Many of the recommendations are a continuation of work in progress but with an additional focus on certain actions which is within agreed resources and will not have any new funding implications:
 - All NHS and non-NHS organisations continue to offer and increase uptake of frontline staff immunisation;
 - BCCG's support in reaching out to our vulnerable population residing in nursing homes/residential care through complex care team;
 - Use of alternate resources such as children centres and a service like warfarin clinic;
 - BCCG exploring options of opportunistic vaccinations when pregnant women come in contact health care.

Risks of not doing it:

- Burden on health economy due to increased emergency admissions due to flu related complications;
- Burden on health out come with increased influenza related morbidity (illness) and mortality (death) due to seasonal flu epidemic;
- Burden on wider economy due to increased absenteeism; and
- Reduction in the productivity and efficiency of front line health and social care workers.

Governance and Delivery Implications

17. None

Equalities Implications

18. The PSED requires public bodies to consider all individuals when carrying out their day to day work – in shaping policy, in delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires public bodies to have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between in respect of nine protected characteristics; age disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex and sexual orientation.

19. The proposal has considered council's equality duty to address inequalities in service provision or access.

Implications for Work Programme

20. None

Conclusion and next Steps

21. These recommendations are proposed to improve our seasonal flu immunisation programme delivery and increase uptake; which subsequently will help to reduce flu related complications, avoidable emergency hospital admissions and deaths related to flu complications. It will also help to reduce gaps in service provision by reaching out to the vulnerable population and the groups who are not on the health care system and help to reduce health inequalities within Bedford Borough.

Appendices

The following Appendix is attached through an electronic link:

22. Flu communication plan

Background Papers

23. None