**Flu Issue 10**

**South East Region**

**Updates for week ending 11 November 2022**

**ImmForm uploads**

We have begun sending out regional uptake data reports. This data is taken from Immform, which takes an automated extraction from your GP clinical system. The weekly reports are not mandated and there is no option to input the data manually. If your practice does not appear on the report, it is likely to be because the automated extraction from your IT system has not happened. Please make sure that the automated extracts have been activated, and, if that does not work, contact your system supplier for support.

As a reminder, the mandatory monthly manual survey for October’s data is currently open and closes on 16 November 2022.

**Age ranges for the flu programme**

Providers are reminded that people fall into the 65 years and over category for the purposes of the flu vaccination programme if they are due to reach the age of 65 by 31st March 2023. That means that people aged 64 with a date of birth before 31 March 1958 can be offered aQIV, irrespective of when, during the season, they are offered it, but this would be off label.

In the cohort of 50-64 year olds who are not in a clinical risk group, people aged 49 but who are due to turn 50 by 31 March 2023 i.e. with a date of birth before 31 March 1973 are eligible for vaccination at any point during the flu season.

Conversely, for children, children who were aged 2 or 3 years of age on 31 August are eligible for a flu vaccination through their GP practice. Children who turn 2 during the season are not eligible. Children who were 3 years of age on or before 31st August but turn 4 years of age during the flu season remain eligible throughout the season.

**Vaccination of children in risk groups**

This is just a reminder that children aged from 6 months to 18 years old in a clinical risk group can be vaccinated by their GP practices. Children in risk groups should be offered vaccination by their practices if there is no record of them having received it.

It is important that children in risk groups are vaccinated as early in the season as possible to avoid complications from flu. Practices should not wait for these children to be offered vaccination under the school aged programme.

**Flu communications campaign**

We wanted to update you on some of the region-wide communication work happening across the region to promote the flu programme

* A regional flu and covid-19 animation plus 4 shorter clips for social media were launched on 11 November. There is a link to the animation here: [https://youtu.be/a-hwm266HIY](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fyoutu.be%2Fa-hwm266HIY&data=05%7C01%7Cnikki.osborne%40nhs.net%7C26944385c7064bf3651108dac3bccc51%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638037512883182042%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=ZrtnKs5YgNU3zHvWZ0ZZCKsm9J%2Fm%2FLEKmWhXPIBHy%2Fo%3D&reserved=0). Please use the hashtag #WinterReady when sharing. There will be an accompanying press release
* The regional communications team has created a MP4 file which features a message on the availability of QIVe vaccine for children whose parents do not want their child to have the flu nasal spray because of its porcine gelatine content. Link here: [Dr Asif Ali - South East Communications - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](https://future.nhs.uk/SouthEastCommunications/view?objectId=150746533)
* National pregnancy assets which cover flu, pertussis and covid-19 vaccinations in pregnancy have been jointly created by NHSE, RCOG & RCM. They are available here: [Pregnancy assets - South East Communications - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](https://future.nhs.uk/SouthEastCommunications/view?objectId=150070181)

All of these resources have been shared with your system communications lead to inform more local flu campaigns.

If you have any feedback or queries relating to this communication, please contact:

england.htvphcontracting@nhs.net - Hampshire and the Isle of Wight, Berkshire, Oxfordshire and Buckinghamshire, Frimley

phst@nhs.net - Kent and Medway,

PHE.Screening-ImmsSSAT@nhs.net - Surrey and Sussex