

	<p align="center">Brent Health and Wellbeing Board</p> <p align="center">30 October 2024</p>
	<p align="center">Report from the Corporate Director of Community Health and Wellbeing</p>
	<p align="center">Cabinet Member for Community Health and Wellbeing - Cllr Nerva</p>
<p>Brent Borough Vaccinations update</p>	

Wards Affected:	All
Key or Non-Key Decision:	Non-Key
Open or Part/Fully Exempt: <small>(If exempt, please highlight relevant paragraph of Part 1, Schedule 12A of 1972 Local Government Act)</small>	Open
List of Appendices:	Appendix 1 - Vaccination report for Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) 30 October 2024
Background Papers:	None
Contact Officer(s): <small>(Name, Title, Contact Details)</small>	<p>Daniel Gibbs Primary Care Programme Manager & Governance Lead – NHS NWL danielgibbs@nhs.net</p> <p>Rushda Butt Primary Care Senior Delivery Manager – NHS NWL r.butt@nhs.net</p>

1.0 Executive Summary

1.1 This report gives an update to the Health and Well-being Board (HWBB) on the borough’s flu and covid-19 vaccinations programme 2024, in the context of the national immunisation programme.

2.0 Recommendation(s)

2.1 The Board is being asked to note the report.

3.0 Background

3.1 The national flu vaccination programme advises that ‘flu vaccination remains a critically important public health intervention to reduce morbidity and mortality in those most at risk including older people, pregnant women and those in clinical risk groups’. [National flu immunisation programme 2024 to 2025; letter (March 2024)-GOV.UK(www.gov.uk)]

- 3.2 The vaccination programme remains an important tool for the health and social care system in managing winter pressures by helping to reduce demand for GP consultations and likelihood of hospitalisation.
- 3.3 There are no changes to the eligible cohorts for this year's programme although the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) have advised delaying the start of the programme for most adults to the beginning of October. This is based on the understanding that the majority of the vaccinations will be completed by the end of November, closer to the time when the flu season commonly starts. It is preferable to vaccinate individuals closer to the time when the flu, as this will provide optimal protection during the highest risk period. The main flu and COVID-19 vaccination campaign commenced on Thursday 3 October 2024.
- 3.4 The JCVI advised that the children's programme should start as in previous years, in September as protection from the vaccine lasts much longer in children. No change is required in the timing of the offer for the maternal programme.

3.5 Eligibility

The JCVI advises that for the 2024 autumn/winter flu vaccination programme, the following groups should be offered a flu vaccination:

From 1 September 2024:

- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2024
- primary school aged children (from Reception to Year 6)
- secondary school aged children (from Year 7 to Year 11)
- all children in clinical risk groups aged from 6 months to less than 18 years

From October 2024,

- adults aged 65 years and over
- those aged 18 years to under 65 years in clinical risk groups (as defined by the Green Book, Influenza Chapter 19)
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
- all frontline healthcare workers, including both clinical and non-clinical staff who have contact with patients. Vaccination of frontline healthcare workers for flu continues to be an employer responsibility without an activity-based payment.
- frontline workers in a social care setting without an employer led occupational health scheme including those working for a registered residential care or nursing home, registered domiciliary care providers, voluntary managed hospice providers and those that are employed by those who receive direct payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health budgets, such as Personal Assistants.

- 3.6 A winter vaccinations communications campaign began in September when flu vaccinations for children and pregnant women were commenced. This was ramped up through September with a national paid-for marketing campaign launching in the week commencing 7 October, encouraging the uptake of influenza and COVID-19 vaccines.
- 3.7 Everyone turning 75 years old on or after the 1 September 2024 is being offered a single dose of RSV vaccine to protect them from this infectious disease of the airways and lungs. RSV infection often causes symptoms similar to a cold. The three eligible cohorts are shown below:
- Catch-up: Adults already 75 - 79yrs on 1st September 2024
 - Routine: Adults turning 75yrs on or after 1st September 2024
 - Pregnant women over 28 weeks: From 1 September 2024, practices are required to offer and provide RSV vaccination to all eligible registered patients from 28 weeks of pregnancy either opportunistically or on request. They will remain eligible until birth (after 36 weeks the vaccine is prescribed off-label).
- 3.8 The primary aim of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme remains the prevention of severe illness (hospitalisations and deaths) arising from COVID-19. The focus of the programme is on offering vaccination to those most likely to directly benefit from it, particularly those with underlying health conditions that increase their risk of hospitalisation following infection. The JCVI advises that a COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to the following groups:
- adults aged 65 years and over
 - residents in a care home for older adults
 - persons aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group (*as defined in tables 3 and 4 of the COVID-19 chapter of the medical Green Book*). The COVID 19 clinical risk groups are recognised to be highly heterogeneous, with absolute risks of serious disease varying substantially both within and between clinical risk groups.
- 3.9 The JCVI does not advise an offer of COVID-19 vaccination within the autumn 2024 national COVID-19 vaccination programme for frontline health and social care workers, staff working in care homes for older adults, unpaid carers and household contacts of people with immunosuppression.
- 3.10 However, health and social care service providers may wish to consider vaccination provided as an occupational health programme and choose to extend an offer of vaccination to frontline health and social care workers and staff working in care homes for older adults in autumn 2024.

Brent Borough's Vaccinations Update

- 3.11 The key message for this year's campaign is to continue provision as per previous years with NHS London stating that London will continue, as in previous seasons, to offer COVID-19 and flu vaccinations to health inclusion populations with the aim of saving lives and addressing the known health inequalities.
- 3.12 Health inclusion populations include people who are socially excluded and experience multiple risk factors for poor health such as poverty, violence and

complex trauma. This can include people who experience homelessness, drug and alcohol dependence, Gypsy, Roma and Traveller (GRT) communities, sex workers, victims of modern slavery, refugees, asylum seekers and undocumented migrants.

- 3.13 In Brent, health inclusion groups will be able to present to locations such as community pharmacies to take up the offer of flu and COVID vaccinations and there will be additional provision in place through an outreach offer provided by the NWL Roving Team as well as UCLH's Find and Treat service. A fortnightly schedule from UCLH's Find and Treat Team will be shared with Boroughs in order to enable appropriate local planning. Brent Health Matters (BHM) are offering a suite of events in November covering a number of community sites including libraries in Kilburn, Kingsbury, Willesden and Cricklewood, and at Brent Central Mosque, Kiln Theatre and the Citizens Advice Bureau.
- 3.14 Since the commencement of the vaccination campaign and up to 06 October, a total of 61,102 flu vaccine doses have been administered in the borough of which 50,907 are GP vaccinations. In NWL ICB, Brent achieved a vaccination rate of 7.7% of the total eligible population by 06 October, compared to 9.6% in both Ealing and Hillingdon boroughs. Within the borough the vaccination rate varies currently with both Harness North and K & W PCNs registering 10.3% and 10.1% respectively and Kilburn PCN r achieving 4% up to 06 October.
- 3.15 The **Covid-19 capacity and delivery plan** (slide number 5 in appendix one), shows the weekly capacity (doses) available from community pharmacies, hospital hubs and three primary care networks (PCNs) for a total eligible population of 116,954. A total of 16,537 total vaccine doses had been administered mostly by community pharmacies and PCNs respectively by 06 October. The NWL Roving Team will cover vaccinations for twelve care homes in the borough and /or Housebound residents for both COVID-19 and flu. PCNs will cover vaccinations for the rest of the in-borough care homes.

4.0 Stakeholder and ward member consultation and engagement

4.1 N/A

5.0 Financial Considerations

5.1 N/A

6.0 Legal Considerations

6.1 N/A

7.0 Equality, Diversity & Inclusion (EDI) Considerations

7.1 The vaccination programme is targeted to specific population cohorts as set out in the eligibility criteria in this report.

8.0 Climate Change and Environmental Considerations

8.1 N/A

9.0 Human Resources/Property Considerations (if appropriate)

9.1 N/A

10.0 Communication Considerations

10.1 N/A

Report sign off:

Tom Shakespeare
Managing Director Brent ICP