

# COVID-19 and Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme Update

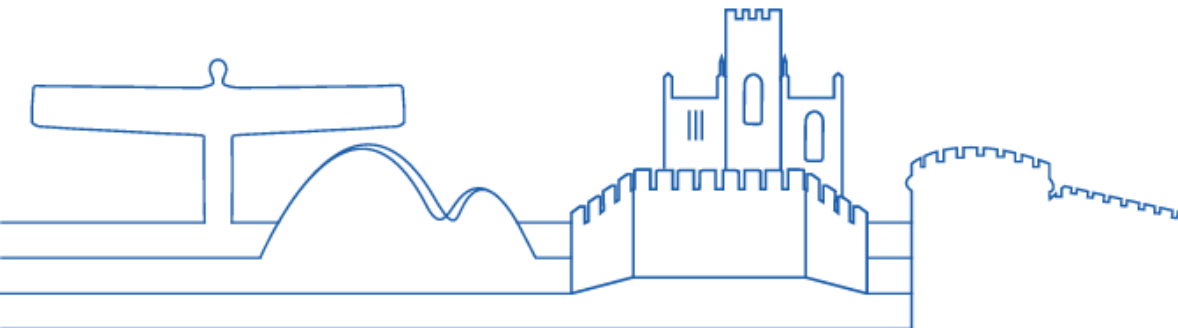
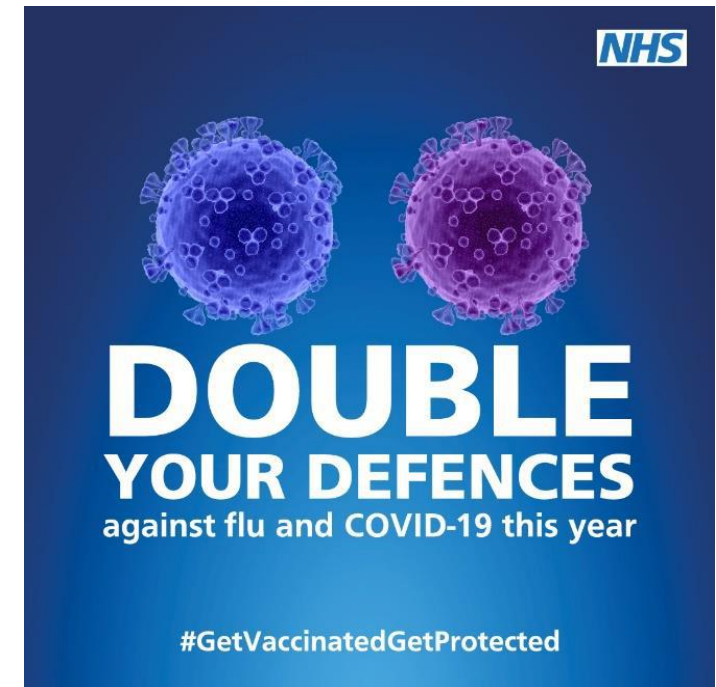
**Northumberland Health and Wellbeing Board**

**13 October 2022**

**Richard Hay** – Head of Planning & Operations

**Claire Lynch** – Senior Primary Care Delivery Manager

**NHS North East and North Cumbria Integrated Care Board**



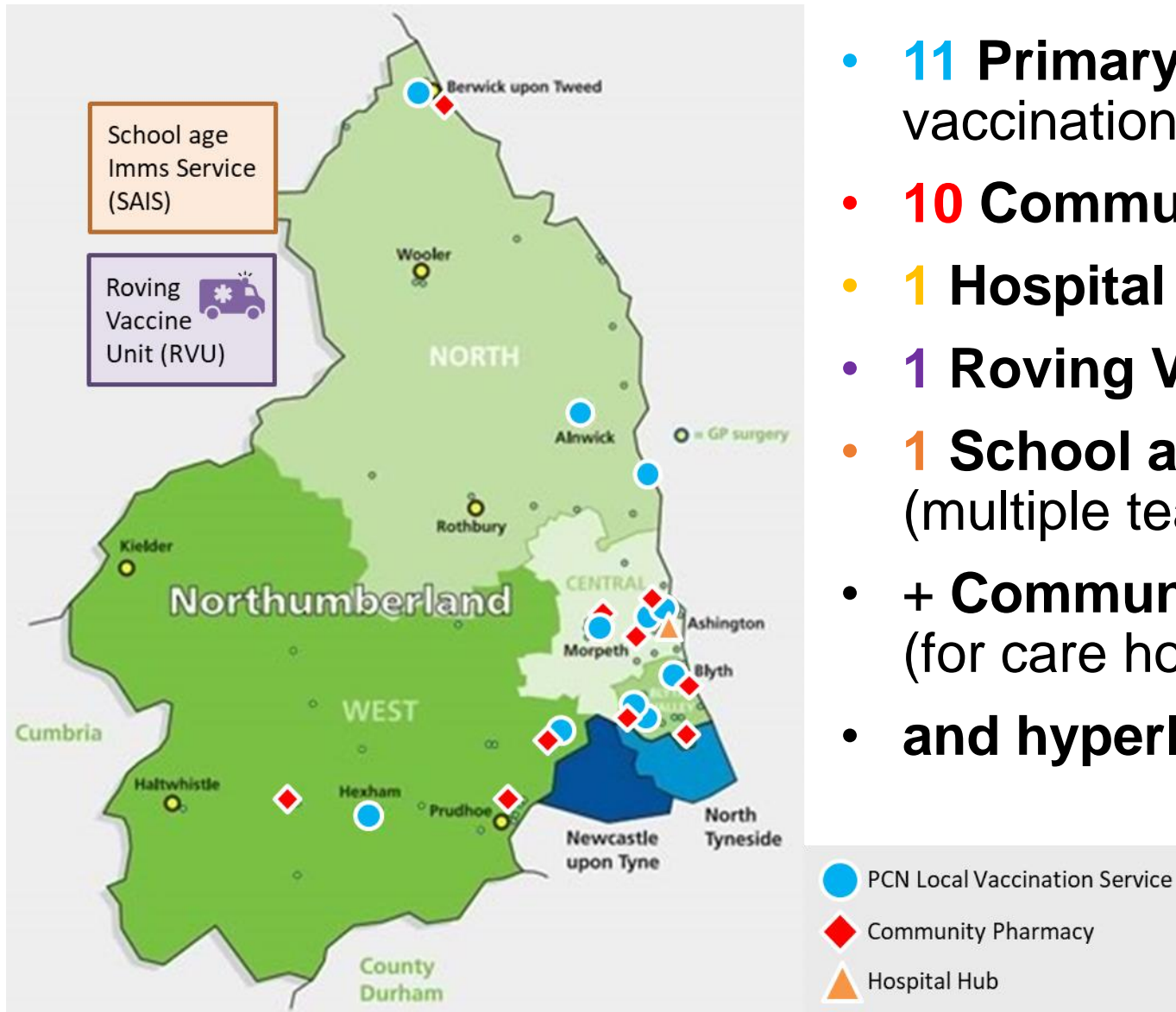
# COVID-19 Boosters and Flu Jabs

- Remains **two separate programmes**, running alongside each other
  - Phase 5 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme
  - Annual seasonal flu programme
- Commenced **early September**, prioritising our most vulnerable residents
- Key points of **similarity** and **difference** to be aware of:
  - Eligibility
  - Access
  - Delivery
  - Co-administration

# COVID-19 Booster Vaccinations

- **Phase 5** of the national COVID-19 vaccination programme
- Eligible patient cohorts:
  - **Residents** and **staff** in care homes for older adults
  - Frontline **health and social care** workers
  - All adults aged **50 and over**
  - Persons aged **5 to 49** in a **clinical risk group** or who are **household contacts** of people with **immunosuppression**
  - Persons aged **16 to 49** who are **carers**
- Enhanced Service Specifications published for Primary Care Network (PCN) and Community Pharmacy participation, plus selected Hospital Hub sites
- **21 designated sites** across Northumberland

# COVID-19 vaccination in Northumberland



- **11 Primary Care Network** local vaccination services
- **10 Community Pharmacies**
- **1 Hospital Hub** (for Health & Care staff)
- **1 Roving Vaccine Unit**
- **1 School age Immunisation Service** (multiple teams)
- **+ Community Nursing & roving teams** (for care home & housebound patients)
- **and hyperlocal pop-up clinics**

# Bivalent Vaccines

- Updated versions of the mRNA COVID-19 vaccines
- **Pfizer** (Comirnaty) and **Moderna** (Spikevax) bivalent products approved for use by MHRA
- Half the dose targets the **original** 'wild-type' virus strain, and the other half targets the **Omicron** variant (BA.1)
- Trial data shows that bivalent boosters trigger a **strong immune response** against both the original strain and Omicron
- Side effects similar to those seen for the original Pfizer and Moderna products – typically **mild** and **self resolving**
- For those patients who **cannot** have mRNA vaccines due to clinical risks (e.g. allergic reactions) the **Novavax** vaccine (Nuvaxovid) is available



# Access & delivery models

- **Two access routes** for appointments:
  1. **National Booking Service** (NBS) online and 119 - all Community Pharmacy sites and some PCN sites
  2. **Local booking** – PCN sites and local GP pop-up clinics
- National invitation letters and SMS have currently been sent to **all over 65 and at risk patients**
- Letters/SMS signpost patients to **NBS** - this **does not** include visibility of locally booked appointments which can give a false impression of availability
- PCNs using local booking are offering appointments to eligible cohorts in **priority order**
- More letters/SMS have been sent than there are appointments currently available in the system, however supplies are delivered weekly and appointments added

# COVID-19 Booster Uptake

- Building on an **excellent track record** of uptake from Northumberland residents across all previous phases
- **Strong initial uptake**, ahead of the North East & North Cumbria (NENC) average
- **Care Home residents** continue to be the top priority
- **Over 56%** of over 75s already vaccinated
- Frontline health and social care worker uptake ahead of the NENC average – **over 17%**
- Important that public confidence and trust in the programme is maintained and uptake continues to be promoted
- With cases and hospital admissions rising, vaccination is our best way of protecting our residents from serious illness as a result of COVID-19



The poster features the NHS logo and the HM Government logo in the top left corner. The main text reads 'Top up your immunity this winter.' Below this, there are two illustrations of vaccine bottles. At the bottom, a small text block provides information about the importance of vaccines and a link to the NHS website for more details.

HM Government

NHS

**Top up your immunity this winter.**



Vaccines are the best protection we have against dangerous viruses like flu and COVID-19. Find out if you're eligible for these two essential vaccines now at [nhs.uk/wintervaccinations](https://nhs.uk/wintervaccinations)

# Key messages for COVID-19 Boosters

- Please be patient, **you will not be missed**
- There will be a vaccine for **all** eligible patients
- If **NBS** appointments are inconvenient, patients should
  - **try again** at a later date when more appointments will have been added
  - **OR wait** to be contacted by their local PCN or GP practice
- Please **do not** contact your GP practice to ask for a vaccine, **they will contact you**
- Some people **may** be eligible for both COVID-19 and flu vaccines
- If you are offered both at the same time, it's **safe to have them together**
- However, please get each vaccination **as soon as you can** to ensure you are fully protected, rather than waiting as it **may not always be possible** to get them both together.
  
- **Please be patient, you will not be missed**



# Seasonal Influenza Programme

- National Seasonal Influenza Enhanced Service Specification 2022/23
- Eligible cohorts aligned with the COVID-19 booster programme **plus**:
  - Pregnant women
  - Children aged **2 to 3**
  - **All** primary school children
  - Secondary school children in school years **7, 8, and 9**
- **All 36** Northumberland GP practices signed up to deliver the enhanced service specification for adults and 2-3 year olds
- Community Pharmacies also delivering flu vaccinations
- School age Immunisation Service (SAIS) providing vaccinations for school age children



# Flu vaccination uptake

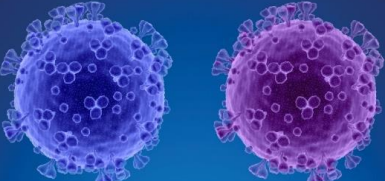

- Northumberland has an **excellent track record** of delivering high uptake of flu vaccinations
- Flu vaccine supplies began arriving around 3 weeks ago
- Initial performance so far is in line with, and in some cohorts slightly ahead of, uptake seen in 2021
- **Over 47%** of over 65s already vaccinated – leading the way across NENC
- Care Home residents continue to be top priority – providers are working hard to co-administer alongside COVID-19 boosters
- No significant issues with supply of vaccine or availability of appointments
- A number of providers are offering co-administration with COVID-19 boosters where supplies allow, however people should get each vaccine as soon as they are offered it, rather than waiting to get both at once

# Supporting and increasing flu uptake

- Across the NENC ICS, pregnant women and 2-3 year olds require targeted support to improve uptake
- Nationally a number workstreams share best practice guidance and lessons learned to tackle inequalities
- Regional pilots to support vaccination in nursery settings
- In Northumberland, a local enhanced service has been commissioned to:
  - incentivise PCNs to increase care home and housebound vaccinations, including enabling better data sharing and vaccine availability
  - Encourage vaccination of all clinical and non-clinical frontline health and social care workers, and those on the Learning Disabilities register
- Example of local integrated delivery: maternity services offering flu, COVID-19, and pertussis vaccines at antenatal clinics to all eligible patients

# Communications and Engagement

- Local and national campaigns to maximise vaccine uptake this winter - **#DoubleYourDefences #GetVaccinatedGetProtected**



**DOUBLE  
YOUR DEFENCES**  
against flu and COVID-19 this year

#GetVaccinatedGetProtected





**PREGNANT?**  
Double your defences against flu and  
COVID-19 – get your free vaccines

#GetVaccinatedGetProtected



**SUPER CHARGE  
your child's defences**

#GetVaccinatedGetProtected



**CARER?**  
Double your defences  
against flu and COVID-19 this year

#GetVaccinatedGetProtected

# System working and integrated delivery

- Wide network of providers and partners working together to **maximise uptake** and protect our residents: GPs, PCNs, Community Pharmacies, Hospitals, Community Services, Local Authority, VCSE organisations etc.
- **Northumberland Vaccine Collaborative** continues to meet regularly to troubleshoot any issues and enable effective partnership working
- **NENC Vaccination Board** led by the ICB to ensure consistent delivery of programmes across our local system
- **Reducing inequalities** is a key priority – local providers and partners are best placed to work with their communities and neighbourhoods to tailor key messages and promote access and uptake
- Northumberland has a strong record of high uptake but we must not become complacent, especially with potential ‘vaccine fatigue’ and the threat of a winter “**twindemic**” of COVID-19 and flu

# Key messages for our residents

- Those at greater risk will need **extra protection** this winter
- The flu vaccination & COVID-19 booster will be **critical to protecting lives**
- If you are offered both vaccines together, it is safe to have them **at the same time**
- However, people are encouraged to get their vaccinations **as soon as possible**, in order to be fully protected, rather than waiting to get both together
- For **COVID-19 boosters**, if the appointments available via the National Booking Service or 119 are inconvenient:
  - **Keep checking** to see what is available as new appointments are added regularly as supplies are confirmed
  - **OR wait** to be contacted by your GP or PCN to book an appointment locally
- There will be enough vaccines for **all** eligible patients
- **Please be patient, you will not be missed**

# Thank you... any questions?



North East and  
North Cumbria

HM Government **NHS**

**Vaccines are our best protection this winter.**

If you are 65 years old or over you can have your free flu and Covid-19 booster vaccine.

Book your vaccine appointments now.

**NHS**

**SERIOUS HEALTH CONDITION?**  
Double your defences against flu and COVID-19 this year

[#GetVaccinatedGetProtected](#)

HM Government **NHS**

**Protect your child from winter viruses.**

All primary school children will be offered a free flu vaccine at school. It's a quick and easy nasal spray.

Look out for your child's consent form in their book bags, sign it and return it straight away.

**NHS**

**LET'S HELP STOMP OUT FLU**  
with the free kids' flu vaccine

[#GetVaccinatedGetProtected](#)

