

Why am I being asked to wait to have my flu vaccine?

Information about flu vaccine supplies

People who are most at risk from the complications of flu should get a flu vaccine every year. This year, however, early demand for the flu vaccine has meant that while a lot of people have been able to get vaccinated, some people have not been able to get their flu vaccine straight away.

Who is eligible for a flu vaccine?

You can get a free annual flu vaccine if you are:

- aged 65 and over;
- have certain health conditions putting you at an increased risk of flu complications;
- are pregnant;
- are a Health and Social Care (HSC) worker;
- receive a carer's allowance or are the main carer of an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick.

Flu vaccines are also given to pre-school children aged 2 years and over; primary school aged children (P1-P7); and children in Year 8 of secondary school.



Visit www.nidirect.gov.uk/flu to check whether you are eligible.

I am in one of the listed groups. Why am I being asked to wait to have my flu vaccine?

Flu vaccine is delivered to GP practices, pharmacies and other services in batches in the run up to and flu season. This year, early demand for flu vaccine has been higher than usual. This has meant that some places have used their early supplies of flu vaccine.



If you are eligible and haven't been able to get your vaccination yet, you will still likely be able to have it before flu season starts.

Can I go elsewhere if my GP practice has run out?

If you are eligible for the free flu vaccine, you will get it from your own GP practice in due course.

Health and Social Care workers can get the vaccine from participating pharmacies or their employers if they offer it. Pharmacies and employers will be able to advise HSC staff on when they expect to be able to offer the vaccine.

Why are some people still being offered the vaccine and not others?

There are several types of flu vaccines available. You will be offered one that is recommended for you based on your age. This means some people will be offered a flu vaccine that is in stock while others, who need a different type of vaccine, may have to wait.

Wouldn't it be better to have any type of flu vaccine rather than wait?

Providers of flu vaccination services are required to offer the vaccine that is most effective for you. It is better to wait to get the right vaccine so that you get the most benefit from it.

When do you need to have a flu vaccination for it to offer protection?

While it's best to get your vaccine before flu starts to circulate, usually in October, it is still beneficial to receive it as it will still offer you protection.

The priority this year is to vaccinate those who are most at risk from flu first, including people of all ages who have a health condition that makes them more at risk from flu.

What should I do now?

If you have been advised you are eligible for a flu vaccine but can't have the flu vaccine now, please follow the advice from your GP surgery.

