

# Autumn / Winter vaccination for people with a learning disability

## Communications toolkit – September 2023

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### Key messages

- Seasonal vaccinations started on 11 September in England - earlier than planned as a precautionary measure following the identification of a new COVID-19 variant.
- [Green book guidance](#) says that people aged 16 years and over with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities, including all those on the learning disability register, and who have Down's Syndrome, are considered to be in a clinical risk group for COVID-19. It says that children of any age with severe or profound and multiple learning disabilities, including Down's syndrome, are considered to be in a clinical risk group. We would expect people in these groups to be eligible for a seasonal COVID-19 vaccination.
- Eligible people are urged to come forward for their jab as soon as they can . All national invitations contain a link to an easy read copy of the invitation letter– if you do not receive an invitation, if you have a learning disability, you can still get your vaccines.
- If you did not get invited for a flu vaccination last year or an Annual Health Check (if you are aged 14 years or older) then check that you're on your doctor's learning disability register so you get an invitation to your flu vaccination.
- You may be able to have your flu and COVID-19 vaccinations at the same time, but this won't always be the case. You'll be invited by the NHS when your vaccinations are due. Please have each vaccination as soon as you are invited.
- If you are able to, please ask for the flu vaccination as an injection to make sure you are fully protected from flu this winter - the nasal spray doesn't offer the best level of protection from flu for adults so we encourage adults to receive it as an injection if possible.



- Children in reception and years 1-11 are being offered the flu vaccination in schools. The nasal spray will be offered. Younger children can get the vaccine from their GP.
- To parents/carers of infants: Flu vaccination is really important to keep your child safe, as flu can be serious in infants and very young children. It also helps to stop the spread to other members of the family.
- If you are in receipt of carers allowance or a main carer, then make sure you are registered at your local GP, to ensure a free flu vaccine so that you don't pass this onto your loved ones or become ill yourself. Ask at your GP surgery to be added to the carers register.
- Uptake data will be monitored so that communications and promotion can be targeted at groups with the lowest uptake.

#### Bulletin content

Flu vaccination uptake - support people with a learning disability and their carers

People with a learning disability and their carers can get a free flu vaccination from their doctor or pharmacist. Some autistic people may also be eligible for a free flu vaccination.

Resources to support uptake including films about getting vaccinated are available at [Flu vaccination: easy-read flu vaccination resources - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/guidance/flu-vaccination-easy-read-flu-vaccination-resources), aimed at people who have, or care for someone with, a learning disability. They explain things like where to go for your flu vaccination, who is eligible, and what will happen at the appointment. Please encourage and support uptake of vaccinations for your communities, including by sharing these films with people with lived experience, and with colleagues.


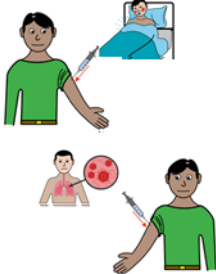






Please watch and share this [film \(produced by Misfits theatre company\)](#) about the range of reasonable adjustments you can make.

#### Online resources

Resource	Audience
<p>NHS England film featuring Rachael and her Mum's experiences of receiving seasonal COVID-19 and flu vaccinations: <a href="#">Rachael and her Mum's Covid autumn seasonal COVID-19 and flu vaccinations at their GP practice in Hull</a></p>	<p>Aimed at health workers involved in providing vaccinations, and to people with lived experience and their families and carers.</p>

<p>NHS England film featuring Chief Delivery Officer and National Director for Vaccinations and Screening Steve Russell visiting a vaccination clinic with reasonable adjustments in place: <a href="#">Vaccine clinic at Share Community Centre in Battersea for people with a learning disability - YouTube</a></p>	<p>Aimed at anyone, including people with lived experience and health workers.</p>
<p>NHS England film describing what a vaccination is, featuring former National Clinical Director Dr Roger Banks and lived experience policy advisor Katie Matthews: <a href="#">Information about vaccines: For people with a learning disability and autistic people</a></p>	<p>Aimed at anyone, including people with lived experience and health workers.</p>
<p>Film by Misfits theatre company supported by NHS England, about the range of reasonable adjustments you can make: <a href="#">film about reasonable adjustments (produced by Misfits theatre company)</a></p>	<p>Aimed at people who support someone who may need reasonable adjustments.</p>
<p><a href="#">Easy read flu and COVID-19 vaccine invitation</a></p>	<p>Aimed at those with a learning disability and those who support someone who may need reasonable adjustments</p>
<p>UKHSA easy read vaccination resources – all available here: here <a href="#">Flu vaccination: easy-read flu vaccination resources - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</a></p> <p>Includes:</p> <p><a href="#">Information on how to protect yourself from flu: plain English guide</a></p> <p><a href="#">Protect yourself from flu: easy-read leaflet</a></p> <p><a href="#">Protect yourself from flu: easy-read poster</a></p> <p><a href="#">Flu vaccination film for people with a learning disability</a></p> <p><a href="#">Flu vaccination film for carers of people with a learning disability</a></p>	<p>Aimed at health workers involved in providing vaccinations, and to people with lived experience and their families and carers</p>

Social media posts to support key messages

<p>The flu injection is the best way to protect adults against flu. It will help stop you getting very poorly. You can watch this video about flu and to see what happens when you go for a flu vaccine: <a href="#">Flu vaccination film for people with a learning disability</a></p>	  <p><b>Book your flu vaccine now!</b></p> <p>Your doctor will invite you for a <b>coronavirus booster</b> if you should have one.</p> <p><small>Images copyright @LYPFT</small></p>
<p>It is really important you get your flu vaccine this year. It is free if you have a learning disability, if you're the main carer for someone or if you have certain health conditions. Watch <a href="#">Rachael and her Mum's experience of seasonal Covid-19 and flu vaccinations at their GP practice in Hull</a></p>	  <p><b>It is really important you get your flu vaccine this year.</b></p> <p>The vaccine is the best way to protect yourself against flu. It will help stop you getting very poorly.</p> <p><small>Images copyright @LYPFT</small></p>
<p>It is really important you get your flu vaccine this year. It is free if you have a learning disability, if you're the main carer for someone or if you have certain health conditions.</p> <p>This <a href="#">film about reasonable adjustments (produced by Misfits theatre company)</a> shows some of the ways a doctor or nurse can make small but important changes to meet your needs.</p>	  <p><b>The flu injection gives adults the best protection from flu.</b></p> <p>If you are worried about injections, talk to your doctor or nurse.</p> <p><small>Images copyright @LYPFT</small></p>
<p>School children will be offered the flu vaccine in schools (reception up to year 11). 2 and 3 year olds will be invited by their doctor (GP). Most children will be offered the nasal spray (a spray up the nose).</p> <p>Some school age children may be invited by the doctor for the vaccine.</p>	  <p><b>School children will offered the flu vaccine in schools (reception up to year 11)</b></p> <p>2 and 3 year olds will be invited by their doctor (GP).</p> <p>Children will be offered the nasal spray.</p> <p><small>Images copyright @LYPFT</small></p>

<p>And some children may be offered the injection rather than the nasal spray.</p> <p>Read more about the flu vaccine for children (not easy read)  <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/</a></p>	
<p>X (formerly twitter)</p>	
<p>It is really important you get your #FluVaccine this year if you have a #LearningDisability. It is free. Watch this video about flu and to see what happens when you go for a flu vaccine  <a href="https://youtu.be/OqGSm0jaF9A">https://youtu.be/OqGSm0jaF9A</a></p>	
<p>If you get carers allowance or are a main #carer, make sure you are registered as a carer at your GP practice to get a free #FluVaccine. #EasyRead resources about flu vaccines  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/flu-leaflet-for-people-with-learning-disability</a>.</p>	
<p>School children will be offered the #FluVaccine in schools (reception up to year 11). 2 and 3 year olds can get it from their doctor. Most children will be offered the nasal spray (a spray up the nose). Read more about the flu vaccine for children  <a href="https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/">https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/child-flu-vaccine/</a></p>	
<p>If you have a #LearningDisability reasonable adjustments can help make it easier for you to get your #FluVaccine, and your #coronavirus seasonal vaccination if you should have one. Watch Rachael and her Mum’s experience of getting vaccinated with the help of reasonable adjustments <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNqoYfXdw0">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=hNqoYfXdw0</a></p>	