

The **flu** vaccination

WINTER 2019/20

Information for adults under 65 years old
who are eligible for a free flu vaccination

Flu vaccination is recommended for all pregnant women and those aged under 65 years with an underlying health condition that puts them at greater risk from flu.

Flu can be a serious illness in these people and the vaccine offers the best protection against it. Adults aged under 65 will be offered an injected quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIV) which offers protection against four strains of flu virus.

Why am I being asked to reschedule my flu vaccine appointment?

Flu vaccines are produced on a yearly basis so that the strains in the vaccine match those that are predicted to circulate. The production of flu vaccines is a complex process and initial batches of vaccine can be subject to delay, or initially fewer doses may be made. This means that on rare occasions, some patients may be asked to reschedule their appointment to a time when vaccine becomes available.



**HELP US
HELP YOU**

STAY WELL THIS WINTER

Can I go elsewhere if my GP practice or pharmacy doesn't have vaccine in stock?

GPs and pharmacists should start to receive some flu vaccines from mid-September and will schedule appointments for when vaccine is available. If your GP does not have one of the recommended vaccines in stock and you do not wish to wait, you may want to check with your local pharmacist whether they are offering the vaccine. Likewise, if your pharmacist normally gives you the flu vaccine but does not have it in stock, you may wish to schedule an appointment with your GP.

How many types of flu vaccines are there?

You will be offered one of the two QIV flu vaccines recommended for those under 65 this year (one has been grown in eggs and the other in cells).

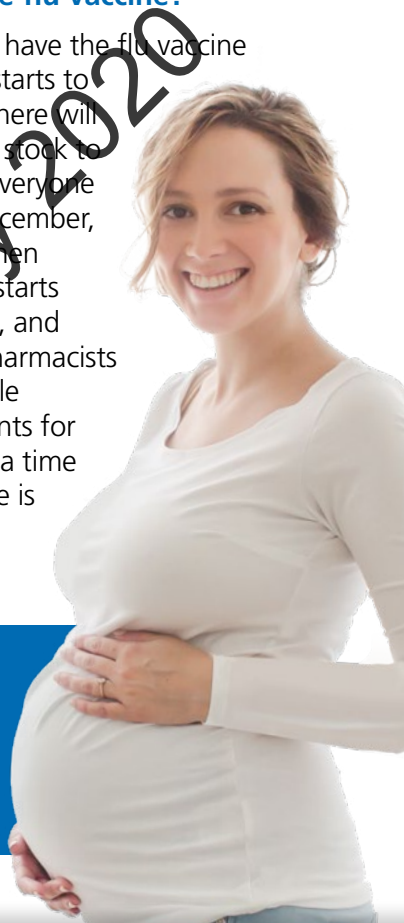
Both are equally suitable for those in your age group and offer the best protection against the flu virus. Where one of the vaccines is not available, your GP or pharmacist may offer you the alternative vaccine.

When is the best time to receive the flu vaccine?

It is best to have the flu vaccine before flu starts to circulate. There will be enough stock to vaccinate everyone by early December, which is when flu usually starts to circulate, and GPs and pharmacists will schedule appointments for patients at a time that vaccine is in stock.

Where can I get further information?

Your GP practice or pharmacy will be able to provide further information. Or if you want to find out more about flu and the flu vaccine visit: www.nhs.uk/flujab



Produced by Public Health England,
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Flu **i**mmunisation

Helping to protect people,
every winter