



## Record levels of flu vaccine uptake in 2020 to 2021

This year saw the roll out of the biggest NHS flu vaccination programme ever, with the aim of offering protection to as many eligible people as possible during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Public Health England and NHS England and NHS Improvement national Influenza teams would like to extend a huge thank you to all those involved for your tremendous work in delivering the most successful programme ever this season. This was despite the many challenges and complexities that you faced during the pandemic.

Despite these challenges, at the end of January 2021 NHS services had vaccinated a record 80.7% of those aged 65 years and over in England. This is the highest uptake ever achieved for this group and exceeds the World Health Organization uptake ambition of 75%.

For frontline healthcare workers and 2 and 3-year olds, the highest ever recorded levels of flu vaccine uptake have also been achieved.

Flu vaccine uptake rates are higher than the same time last season for all other eligible groups. This includes an uptake rate of 52.4% for those in clinical at-risk groups, which is the highest level achieved in the last seven seasons.

**Big thank-you**  
for the best annual  
flu vaccination programme  
of all time



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The provisional monthly flu vaccine uptake data from 1 September 2020 to 31 January 2021 published on Thursday 25 February is summarised below.

**Table 1: GP patients flu vaccine uptake 1 September to 31 January 2018/19 – 2020/21**

Eligible cohort	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
65 years and over	80.7%	71.9%	71.3%
At risk groups	52.4%	43.6%	46.9%
Pregnant women	43.6%	43.1%	45.0%
2 year olds in risk group	62.3%	51.2%	53.7%
2 year olds not in risk group	55.0%	41.4%	42.9%
3 year olds in risk group	66.1%	52.5%	55.9%
3 year olds not in risk group	57.5%	42.2%	44.8%
50 – 64 years in risk group	65.7%	N/A	N/A
50 - 64 years not in risk group	34.1%	N/A	N/A

For full data see: [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-gp-patients-monthly-data-2020-to-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-gp-patients-monthly-data-2020-to-2021)

**Table 2: School-aged children flu vaccine uptake 1 September to 31 January 2018/19 – 2020/21**

Eligible cohort	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Reception (4–5 years)	63.5%	64.2%	63.9%
Year 1 (5-6 years)	63.9%	63.5%	63.4%
Year 2 (6-7 years)	63.2%	62.6%	61.4%
Year 3 (7-8 years)	62.6%	60.6%	60.2%
Year 4 (8-9 years)	61.2%	59.6%	58.0%
Year 5 (9-10 years)	60.5%	57.2%	56.2%
Year 6 (10-11 years)	58.5%	55.1%	N/A
Reception to Year 6 (4-11 years)	61.9%	60.3%	N/A
Year 7 (11-12 years)	55.5%	N/A	N/A
Reception to Year 7 (4-12 years)	61.1%	N/A	N/A

For full data see: [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-children-of-school-age-monthly-data-2020-to-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-children-of-school-age-monthly-data-2020-to-2021)

**Table 3: Frontline healthcare workers flu vaccine uptake  
1 September to 31 January 2018/19 – 2020/21**

Eligible cohort	2020/21	2019/20	2018/19
Frontline healthcare workers	76.3%	72.4%	68.6%

For the full data see: [www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-healthcare-workers-monthly-data-2020-to-2021](http://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake-in-healthcare-workers-monthly-data-2020-to-2021)

For GP patients and frontline healthcare workers the last publication of monthly data for the season will be on 25 March 2021. All data is provisional, with final end-of-season data published in the PHE annual reports on 24 June 2021.

On 7 January 2021 a press release from NHS EI, PHE and the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, thanking NHS services for their incredible hard work in achieving some of the highest ever vaccination rates for flu was issued and can be found at [weblink 1](#).



Thank-you to you all for the tremendous work and life saving achievement that this programme has provided for our population.

### COVID-19 vaccinations currently being offered to those over 75 and in the eligible at risk groups

**The COVID-19 programme continues at pace and we want to thank everyone for all the incredible hard work to make this roll-out so successful. We have now very good uptake of the vaccine in the over 80's age group and very good signs that health and social care professionals are taking up the offer of vaccination. We are very keen to encourage all the eligible groups to come forward when they are invited for their vaccination.**

COVID-19 Vaccination FAQ explainer videos have been produced to address the frequently asked questions that people have about the programme.

The set of 52 COVID-19 explainer videos is now published on PHE Youtube (see [weblink 2](#)), see links to the playlists below. They are short and easy to share and address many of the COVID-19 vaccination programme queries and FAQs that have inundated our inboxes, so please use them liberally.

This is the global playlist which contains all 52 informational videos and is pinned to our YouTube home page and can be accessed at [weblink 3](#).

PHE Youtube links to playlists but please do watch them all as they are all individually valuable and pertinent to the current rollout and related concerns and are a rich resource, some of which is time sensitive. This means that as new data and vaccines are added, all videos can be subject to change and being withdrawn and replaced due to new information.



### So, if you can watch now and share now.

<b>Dr Mary Ramsay:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 4</a>	<b>Dr Kevin Brown:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 5</a>
<b>Dr Gayatri Amirthalingam:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 6</a>	<b>Dr Shriti Pattani:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 7</a>
<b>Dr Anthony Harnden:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 8</a>	<b>Dr Julie Yates:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 9</a>
<b>Dr Wei Shen Lim:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 10</a>		

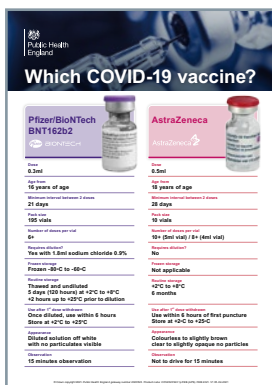
All the short videos can also be downloaded from the Campaign Resource Centre (see [weblink 11](#)) so that you can upload them to websites, share them on social media and send them or the links to them to partners, stakeholders and working groups that you are members of, you will need to register if you cannot access the links below.



### Download and share links below

<b>Dr Mary Ramsay – collection of 17 short videos:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 12</a>
<b>Dr Gayatri Amirthalingam – collection of 4 short videos:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 13</a>
<b>Dr Kevin Brown – collection of 8 short videos:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 14</a>
<b>Dr Shriti Pattani – collection of 5 short videos:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 15</a>
<b>Dr Anthony Harnden – collection of 10 short videos:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 11</a>
<b>Dr Wei Shen Lim – collection of 3 short videos:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 16</a>
<b>Dr Julie Yates – collection of 5 short videos:</b>	<a href="#">weblink 17</a>

## Which COVID-19 vaccine? presentation poster for health professionals – published and available to order



This poster is for health professionals to identify the correct syringe, doses and presentation of the Pfizer and Oxford AstraZeneca vaccines (see [weblink 18](#)).

Please bookmark the link as this poster will be updated as new supply chain information is released and new vaccines are added to the programme

Product code: **COV2020520**

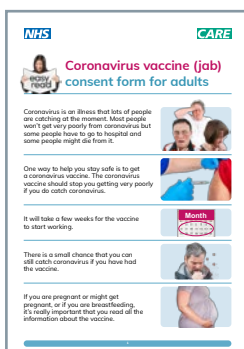
[Weblink 19](#) to poster on Health Publications website.

## Resources for people with a learning disability or who have autism

These resources are aimed at people who have, or care for someone with a learning disability. We now have all the leaflets and resources planned for this important group including an Easy Read consent form. This version of the form may be helpful for other groups who don't not read well, or who have sight problems.

All women of childbearing age must read the COVID-19 vaccination for women who might get pregnant, who are pregnant or are breastfeeding their baby guidance before going for vaccination.

### Easy-read COVID-19 vaccination consent form for adults

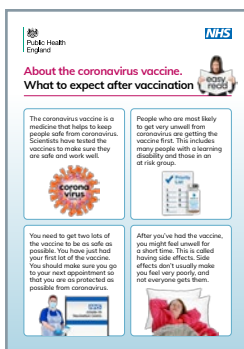


To view or download single copies here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-consent-form-for-adults](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-consent-form-for-adults)

Paper copies can be ordered at the website below using product code: **COV2020528**

Both print ready and web ready files can be downloaded from the Health publication website: <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadcovid19vaccinationconsentform>

### Easy Read what to expect after vaccination leaflet



To view or download single copies here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources)

Paper copies can be ordered at the website below using product code: **COV2020307V2ER**

Both print ready and web ready files can be downloaded from the Health publication website: [www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadwhattoexpectaftercovid19vaccination](http://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadwhattoexpectaftercovid19vaccination)

### Easy Read guide for women who might get pregnant, are pregnant or who are breastfeeding leaflet



To view or download single copies here: [www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources](http://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-easy-read-resources)

Paper copies can be ordered at the website below using product code: **COV2020374V3ER**

Both print ready and web ready files can be downloaded from the Health publication website: [www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadguideforchildbearingpregnantwomen](http://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadguideforchildbearingpregnantwomen)

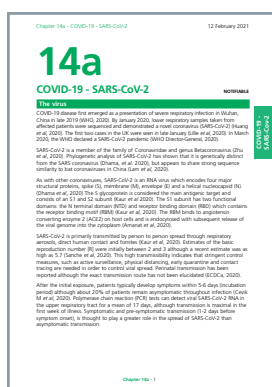
## Easy Read video COVID-19 vaccination guides are now published too.

- 1 **What is Coronavirus** – Easy Read style video for people with a learning disability. Product code: **COV2020533**  
<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Swatisfcoronaviruseasyreadstylevideoforpeoplewithlearningdisability>
- 2 **Easy Read video guide to what the COVID-19 vaccine is.**  
 Product code: **COV2020534**  
[www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadvideoguidetowhatthecovid19vaccineis](http://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadvideoguidetowhatthecovid19vaccineis)
- 3 **Easy Read video guide to getting the COVID-19 vaccine.**  
 Product code: **COV2020535**  
[www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadvideoguidetogettingethecovid19vaccine](http://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadvideoguidetogettingethecovid19vaccine)
- 4 **Easy Read video guide to how you will feel after the COVID-19 vaccine.**  
 Product code: **COV2020536**  
[www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadvideoguidetohowyouwillfeelafterthecovid19vaccine](http://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadvideoguidetohowyouwillfeelafterthecovid19vaccine)
- 5 **Easy Read video guide to what to do after having your COVID-19 vaccine.**  
 Product code: **COV2020537**  
[www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadvideoguidetowhattodoforhavingyourcovid19vaccine](http://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Seasyreadvideoguidetowhattodoforhavingyourcovid19vaccine)

Other versions of these leaflets are available in braille, BSL, translated into many languages. Please visit Health Publications to order paper copies or download the videos.

NHS England Learning Disability and Autism Programme have produced an information about vaccines video for people with a learning disability and their carers (see [weblink 20](#)). A set of short social media clips of the video are available to download from the Health Publications website at [weblink 21](#).

The handy tips guide is available to download from the Health publications website at [weblink 22](#).



## The Green book of Immunisation chapter 14a has been revised and published 12 February 2021

It has been updated to include information on the Moderna mRNA vaccine, further changes to the advice on managing allergic history and allergies after dose 1 and updated information and clarification of advice on pregnancy.

Please bookmark the page as it is updated frequently in relation to new data and vaccines. See [weblink 23](#).

## Free RNIB training for vaccination staff and volunteers

### RNIB

See differently

#### Supporting and guiding someone with sight loss

##### Communication

- Always verbally introduce yourself and speak directly to the person.
- When speaking to someone always use their name (if known).
- If you don't know their name it can be helpful to say, "Hello I am .... Can I help you with anything?"
- Speak and avoid relying on non-verbal gestures such as pointing or nodding/shaking your head.
- Don't be scared to offer help if you think the person might want assistance if you are unsure just ask them.
- Give the person a little extra time to respond.
- Always tell the person if you are going to leave them alone.
- Always tell the person if you are going to hand them over to someone else.

##### Verbal Guiding (allows for 2M social distancing rule)

- Ask the person if they would like to be guided and follow their preferences.
- If support is required, ask the person if they want you to walk in front, side, or back of them.
- Provide the person with clear verbal instruction, describing the route you are taking, and avoiding all obstacles.
- Go at the person's pace and give enough time to warn of changes in direction or potential obstacles.
- Tell the person what you are doing and explain each step especially if it involves physical contact.
- Follow these tips for people arriving at or leaving the centre.

It's essential that everyone who comes for a vaccine feels safe, supported and understood. The Royal National Institute of Blind People have free training available to staff and volunteers working on the vaccine programme to help you feel more confident in supporting people with sight loss.

You can pick from three short online training modules covering communication, how to guide, and the experiences of people with sight loss, relevant to your time in the vaccination programme and beyond.

Simply visit [www.enetlearn.com/vaccinesupport](http://www.enetlearn.com/vaccinesupport) and click the "register" button to access the training. If you don't have much time, you can download a [quick "handy tips" document for working with people with sight loss](#) and display it in staff areas of your vaccination centre.

There are 1500 places and we hope that as many of our vaccination workforce will have time to share the handy tips guide and take up the offer of training so kindly provided by the RNIB and supported nationally by our devolved administrations, a truly UK wide initiative. First come, first served basis, so do register as soon as possible. Training is only 20 minutes per unit for two units and 40 minutes for the final unit and counts as CPD.

The handy tips guide is available to download from the Health publications website at [weblink 22](#).



For routine and non-routine vaccination supply please see the March issue 318 at [weblink 24](#).

## Weblinks

- weblink 1 [www.gov.uk/government/news/flu-vaccine-uptake-among-over-65s-highest-on-record](http://www.gov.uk/government/news/flu-vaccine-uptake-among-over-65s-highest-on-record)
- weblink 2 <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCoFX8yfaEwXNEu3HgLfomQ>
- weblink 3 <https://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDAq3SAWJh3cUsGKDLkNM9oCNHliU5EC>
- weblink 4 <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDAq3SAWJh0nhlaX4q53qhSbUsNwqTZw>
- weblink 5 <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDAq3SAWJh3tD8wS7ir7iBrU9ahDjuUT>
- weblink 6 <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDAq3SAWJh14Eha8es7pUVU1rCU1E5yU>
- weblink 7 [https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDAq3SAWJh35KZHAG5tB60K\\_R9M68RW6](https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDAq3SAWJh35KZHAG5tB60K_R9M68RW6)
- weblink 8 <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDAq3SAWJh2wqoofkJcWDlriAfdKb5n6>
- weblink 9 <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDAq3SAWJh2UPfzA8B4Jw43LNaDq-tGj>
- weblink 10 <https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLLDAq3SAWJh1yUlJy2wp6zT5IZYnBJtMJ>
- weblink 11 <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/explainer-videos-anthony/>
- weblink 12 <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/explainer-videos-mary/>
- weblink 13 <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/explainer-videos-gayatri/>
- weblink 14 <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/explainer-videos-dr-kevin-brown/>
- weblink 15 <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/explainer-videos-shriti/>
- weblink 16 <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/explainer-videos-wei/>
- weblink 17 <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/explainer-videos-julie/>
- weblink 18 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-vaccine-product-information-poster>
- weblink 19 <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Swhichcovid19vaccinepresentationposter>
- weblink 20 <https://www.england.nhs.uk/learning-disabilities/improving-health/>
- weblink 21 <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Snhsenglandlearningdisabilityandautismprogrammesocialmediaclipsonvaccination>
- weblink 22 <https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Snibhandytipsguideforallhealthprofessionals>
- weblink 23 <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a>
- weblink 24 <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/vaccine-update>