

Meeting:	Board Meeting
Meeting date:	25 August 2021
Title:	Influenza and COVID vaccination programmes 2021/22 season
Item:	9.2
Responsible Executive/Non-Executive:	Dr Maggie Watts, DPH
Report Author:	Christina Morrison, HPNS

1 Purpose

This is presented to the Board for:

- Awareness

This report relates to a:

- Government policy/directive

This aligns to the following NHSScotland quality ambition(s):

- Safe
- Effective
- Person Centred

2 Report summary

2.1 Situation

NHS Western Isles offers programmes for influenza vaccination to NHS staff and to eligible population groups annually.. Planning for vaccination has been complicated this year because of the inclusion of COVID-19 booster vaccinations considered necessary to support protection for the population against the ongoing pandemic

2.2 Background

Annual seasonal influenza vaccination programmes are well established throughout the UK. During the course of this year, COVID19 vaccinations have been rolled out and implemented as directed by Scottish Government following the guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). This autumn, booster vaccinations for COVID-19 will be provided in line with JCVI guidance alongside influenza vaccination.

2.3 Assessment

This year's programme has been extended by Scottish Government to include adults from 50 years upwards, all pupil; facing staff in school settings and all independent NHS contractors, alongside the cohorts of previous years. NHS Western Isles has expanded its planning to include these groups.

2.3.1 People eligible for the free influenza vaccine now include:

- those aged 50 and over
- those aged 6 months to 49 years who have certain underlying health conditions which increase risk
- pregnant women
- children aged 2-5 years (not yet at school)
- health and social care staff
- unpaid and young carers
- all primary and secondary school age children, (in school setting)
- independent NHS contractors, (GP, dental and optometry practices, community pharmacists), laboratory staff (working on COVID-19 testing) including support staff
- teachers, nursery teachers and support staff in close contact with pupils
- prison staff and support staff in close contact with the prison population (delivering direct detention services)
- those in the prison population.

2.3.2 People eligible for the Covid-19 booster immunisation programme for 2021 are identified in two stages:

STAGE 1

- Adults aged 16 years and over who are immunosuppressed
- Those living in residential care homes for older adults
- All adults aged 70 years of age and over
- Adults aged 16 years and over who are considered as clinically extremely vulnerable
- Frontline Health and Social Care workers

STAGE 2

- All adults aged 50 years and over
- All adults aged 16-49 who are in an Influenza 'At risk' category
- Adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals.

2.3.3 The Covid-19 booster immunisation programme is intended to be available at 6 months after the second dose of the initial programme and the programme will be adapted to accommodate this.

2.3.4 There are four delivery models for this year's programme:

- Within GP practice premises
- Centralised clinics for Stornoway and Broadbay, and other less rural areas as appropriate
- Within primary and secondary schools
- In maternity services.

2.3.5 Quality/ Patient Care

Influenza and Covid-19 vaccinations are intended to reduce the impact of these infections on the whole population, by vaccinating those at greatest risk from contracting the infection, and those at greatest risk of transmitting the infection to vulnerable people even though they might be less affected themselves. This year's programme extension is in part in recognition that there was very little influenza virus circulating last year and the expectation of increased vulnerability.

2.3.6 Workforce

Community nursing will continue to be the mainstay of vaccinators in the community, with the School Nursing team leading on the education setting, Occupational Health leading on delivery to the health and social care cohort and midwifery coordinating and delivering to all pregnant women. The plan sets out the continuing importance of peer vaccinators to the healthcare programme. Additional staffing will be required to ensure the programme is delivered within the appropriate timescales for effective protection and delivery plans include maximising use of existing staff across the Western Isles.

2.3.7 Financial

This year, the vaccination management tool will be used for recording all vaccinations delivered, regardless of setting. There is the need for additional staff hours for both administration and vaccination to ensure that all vaccinations are recorded and uptake can be measured.

2.3.8 Risk Assessment/Management

Local risk assessment will be in place for alternative venues. Existing risks around vaccination are retained at local level.

2.3.9 Equality and Diversity, including health inequalities

Those in poorer chronic health are targeted for influenza and Covid-19 vaccination, helping to reduce their vulnerability to these infections and hence inequalities.

Data for lettering patients is drawn from the GP practice so the service is available to those registered with a GP. Ad hoc vaccinations may be available at drop in sessions on particular sites.

2.3.10 Other impacts

N/A

2.3.11 Communication, involvement, engagement and consultation

The Board has carried out its duties to involve and engage external stakeholders where appropriate:

Influenza and COVID-19 planning meetings have been held with relevant staff membership and participation.

2.3.12 Route to the Meeting

This has been previously considered by the following groups as part of its development. The groups have either supported the content, or their feedback has informed the development of the content presented in this report:

- NHS Western Isles Vaccination Group
- Health Protection Team July 2021
- Corporate Management Team 17.08.21

2.4 Recommendation

- **Awareness** – For Members' information only.

2 List of appendices

The following appendix is included with this report:

Annual Influenza and Covid-19 Booster Vaccination Programme in NHS Western Isles 2020/21