



CYFARFOD BWRDD PRIFYSGOL IECHYD UNIVERSITY HEALTH BOARD MEETING

DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:	29 September 2022
TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:	Winter Respiratory Vaccination Delivery Plan 2022/23
CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:	Alison Shakeshaft, Executive Director of Therapies & Health Science
SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:	Bethan Lewis, Interim Assistant Director of Public Health

Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)

Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)

Er Sicrwydd/For Assurance

ADRODDIAD SCAA SBAR REPORT

Sefyllfa / Situation

The Hywel Dda University Health Board Winter Respiratory Vaccination Plan 2022/23 describes how we will work together in this unprecedented season to minimise the co-circulation of Flu and COVID-19, protect those most at risk, and reduce the impact of respiratory illness on health and social care services this winter. These aims will be achieved through the deployment of a wide range of actions to increase uptake of both COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines. The evidence is pointing to a severe flu season this autumn / winter and co-circulation of Flu and COVID. We must, therefore, ensure we do all we can to increase uptake of both vaccines – to protect individuals, communities and the health and care system.

On 29th March 2022, Welsh Government (WG) set out the planning guidance on the delivery of the NHS seasonal influenza (flu) vaccination programme [Reimbursable vaccines and eligible cohorts for the 2022 to 2023 NHS seasonal influenza \(flu\) vaccination programme \(WHC/2022/010\) | GOV.WALES](#). Following its interim guidance, the JCVI published an updated statement providing their definitive guidance on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for autumn 2022 on 15th July 2022 [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\) updated statement on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for autumn 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#). These guidance documents were further supported by WG publication of its strategy in relation to the delivery of winter respiratory vaccinations for autumn and winter 2022/23 in order to ensure protection is offered to those most vulnerable from COVID-19 and influenza [Winter respiratory vaccination strategy : autumn and winter 2022 to 2023 \[HTML\] | GOV.WALES](#).

This report will provide the Hywel Dda University Health Board (the Health Board) with the current position in terms of planning for the delivery of the winter respiratory vaccinations as we embark on a transitional programme to embed COVID-19 vaccination alongside our existing autumn flu programme.

Cefndir / Background

The principles of the Health Board's Health and Wellbeing Framework have continued to be encompassed in the vaccination delivery plans, in terms of recognising the need to 'shift' the culture around vaccination, building on the lessons learnt from the Mass Vaccination Centres (MVCs) and promoting community health and wellbeing.

Capitalising on the lessons learnt from the COVID-19 vaccination programme and building on the population's enthusiasm for the programme and the use of social media platforms, the following principles will be followed on a national basis:

- Maintain consistency across the vaccine programmes. The Health Board plans to bring all of the vaccine programmes under the Vaccination Saves Lives (VSL) branding in the future, and to continue to differentiate our audiences by age using the established principle of applying the brand mark within different colour palettes where audiences remain distinct. The aim will be to show a whole life programme i.e. 'Vaccination Saves Lives' through the life cycle.
- Capitalise on the interest and demand for COVID-19 vaccines - anecdotally it is recognised that people's interest in receiving their Flu vaccine waned as soon as a COVID-19 vaccine became available; therefore, aligning Flu with the VSL branding helps to reinforce that a Flu vaccine is equally as important as a COVID-19 vaccine.
- Ensuring the branding will be consistent and straightforward for the public to understand and appreciate why they need to be up to date with both vaccines in order to protect themselves and their families.
- The VSL branding has been used widely throughout the COVID-19 vaccine rollout. People recognise and trust it, and this trust will be utilised to promote the uptake of other vaccine programmes.

The winter respiratory vaccination delivery plan for 2022-23 embraces the principles of the Health Board's Health and Wellbeing Framework in recognising the need to shift the culture around vaccination towards an asset-based approach. With this in mind, the core themes for the 2022/23 programme are:

- Focusing on health as an asset, with messaging using the national programme 'Vaccination Saves Lives'. By using positive messages around protecting ourselves and others, rather than focusing on messages around needing the winter respiratory vaccines because of a chronic illness or age, focus has been shifted from mitigating illness to maintaining wellness.
- Ensuring a joined-up approach throughout the season, engaging early with stakeholders, aligning the Health Board staff campaign with the core public health winter respiratory vaccine campaign, and working as a unified multidisciplinary team, both to plan before the season and to troubleshoot during it.
- Building further on the previous national Flu Immunisation campaigns, the COVID-19 vaccine delivery milestones, and reviewing how this brand could be extended to the wider vaccination and immunisation agenda.
- Ensuring that sufficient attention is directed at the risk groups for flu that WG has prioritised for 2022/23 in line with the JVCI COVID-19 priority groups.

The groups eligible for a flu vaccine as part of the routine national flu programme 2022/23 are identified as:

- children aged two and three years on 31st August 2022
- children in primary school from reception class to year 6 (inclusive)
- children in secondary school from year 7 to year 11 (inclusive)
- people aged six months to less than 50 years in clinical risk groups
- people aged 50 years and older
- all adult prison residents
- pregnant women
- carers
- people with a learning disability
- staff in nursing homes and care homes with regular client contact
- staff providing domiciliary care
- staff providing frontline NHS/Primary Care services
- healthcare workers (including healthcare students) with direct patient contact

The groups identified by the JCVI that should be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine for the 2022 autumn programme are:

- residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
- frontline health and social care workers
- all adults aged 50 years and over
- persons aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group
- persons aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- persons aged 16 to 49 years who are carers

Asesiad / Assessment

It is recognised that a single Flu and COVID vaccination programme in 2022/23 will be a significant milestone for the Health Board and represents a significant step towards full integration of our vaccination programmes.

Maximising uptake of Flu and COVID vaccines through a single programme enables integrated strategy, planning, governance and public engagement; examines opportunities of integrated delivery (co-administration), transitioning from a single delivery model where possible; and realises benefits for delivery and population health by:

- maximising uptake of both vaccines
- targeted and impactful communications
- service efficiencies

This Plan has been developed to maximise alignment with the Health Board COVID-19 Mass Vaccination Delivery Plan and the Health Board Seasonal Influenza Delivery Plan and is a live document, subject to amendment as the season unfolds, as further Welsh Health Circulars are published, and as the Health Board derives learning from delivery of both vaccines. This season will require maximum flexibility from services charged with delivery of actions within this Plan, to rapidly respond to changes in policy, guidance and priorities as they emerge from the JCVI and WG.

Vaccine Supply

Flu vaccines orders were completed across the Health Board and Primary Care contractors as per agreed process and are anticipated to begin arriving around 19th September 2022 for both adult and children vaccine preparations. No delays are currently identified in the order system. Order amounts were calculated on previous uptake levels and reviewed against possible increases in uptake likely from the population uptake in COVID-19 vaccines. Over previous years, a central buffer stock supply has been secured nationally; however, to date, this has not been confirmed for the 2022/23 programme. If no central contingency stock is made available and uptake with co-administration increases uptake, there is a risk that demand will exceed supply.

The autumn programme for COVID-19 will see the introduction of a new bivalent vaccine, which is an adapted vaccine which targets two different coronavirus variants – the original virus from 2020 and the Omicron variant. The first new vaccine available will be the Moderna vaccine and it is anticipated that Pfizer will also have a bivalent vaccine soon after the start of the autumn programme. Due to the transition to a bivalent vaccine for 2022/23 campaign for all eligible groups, the initial supply of vaccine will be at a capped amount per week until additional supply is confirmed. Therefore, the pace of delivery will be planned around the amount of vaccine available.

For the small number of our population who are unable to receive an mRNA vaccine for their booster there will be a small stock of Novavax available which will be managed centrally through our Immunisation & Vaccination team and Pharmacy leads.

The delivery schedule for COVID-19 mRNA vaccine has been confirmed and this will involve central ordering by Health Board leads resulting in direct delivery to each Primary Care contractor and MVC with a supply supported within the hospital pharmacy site. The Health Board has the infrastructure required to enable the movement of vaccine from its hospital pharmacy site onto Primary Care contractors should demand require.

The supply of original Pfizer vaccine will be supporting the delivery of 'leave no-one behind' and primary doses for those who have not previously come forward or need to complete their primary course.

Proposed Delivery Plan

It is vital that a coordinated seamless delivery programme is delivered by GPs, MVCs, Community Pharmacies and the Health Board's School Nursing, Occupational Health and Immunisation & Vaccination teams. The vaccinations for the eligible groups will be delivered by a variety of health care professionals in order to maximise vaccine uptake and maintain baseline services.

GP and Community Pharmacies

Our Primary Care contractors are key to delivering both flu and COVID-19 vaccines this autumn, as our foremost mechanism of delivery and maximising the opportunity to co-administer wherever possible and vaccine supply allows. They will deliver the following:

- Children aged two or three years on 31st August 2022 – flu vaccine
- People aged 50 years and older (age on 31st March 2022) – flu and COVID-19 vaccines
- People aged between six months and less than 50 years in clinical risk groups or family members of immunosuppressed – flu vaccine to all; COVID-19 vaccines to 16 years and over

- Carers – flu and COVID-19 vaccines
- Staff providing domiciliary care – flu and COVID-19 vaccines
- Staff in nursing homes and care homes with regular client contact – flu and COVID-19 vaccines
- Pregnant women – flu and COVID-19 vaccines
- People with a learning disability - flu and COVID-19 vaccines

It is important to recognise there are a small number of GP practices across the Health Board footprint who will not be able to support the COVID-19 vaccine delivery plan this autumn. The population of these practices will be invited to their nearest MVC for their COVID-19 vaccines whilst they will continue to be invited by their GP for their flu vaccines as per previous years.

Similarly, it is important to acknowledge there is a small number of community pharmacies supporting the COVID-19 delivery plan this autumn as opposed to the flu delivery plan across all our community pharmacies. Details of the community pharmacies offering COVID-19 vaccines will be made available via the Health Board website, all communications issued by the Health Board and will be readily available in their own community communication used by their pharmacy.

Community pharmacies play a pivotal role in supporting vaccination across care home staff for flu delivery with increased engagement each year recognised. With this in mind, we will endeavour to ensure staff from MVCs are deployed to support those community pharmacies not delivering COVID-19 vaccines in their care home staff clinics across the counties.

Mass Vaccination Centres

All six MVCs will be available across the autumn programme to support delivery of both COVID-19 and flu vaccines to identified eligible groups. Accessibility of our MVCs changed from the 1st September 2022 as we will not be offering drop in vaccines for the autumn booster to the wider population. The MVCs will be supporting the following:

- Healthcare workers (including healthcare students) – COVID-19 and flu vaccines
- Social Care workers – COVID-19 vaccine
- Population in eligible groups 50 years and older, care home residents, people aged 5-49 in at risk groups or family members of immunosuppressed not supported by COVID-19 delivery by GP – COVID-19 vaccine
- Acute and community hospital inpatients – flu & COVID-19 vaccines

It is important to note that when invited to attend an MVC, all staff groups and the population not able to receive their COVID-19 vaccine with their GP will be supported to attend a community pharmacy nearer their home if more suitable for them. In order to ensure we have offered everyone their invite for a COVID-19 vaccine, as per WG Strategy ambition, we will be providing an initial invite to these dedicated groups to their nearest MVC.

In order to ensure we have reached any lower uptake groups there will be monthly vaccine equity group meetings and we will enable staff to reach out to our communities across the three counties to deliver both flu and COVID-19 vaccines. Links will also be explored across maternity ante-natal services to ensure staff are available to administer both flu and COVID-19 vaccines during clinic opportunities.

Inpatient vaccination for both flu and COVID-19 will be critical to the prevention of transmission of winter respiratory viruses this autumn / winter. MVC staff will be reaching into all sites

across acute, community and mental health to ensure those patients most at risk are receiving their vaccines in a timely manner.

Health Board School Nurses

2021/22 saw the expansion of the school children flu campaign to include all secondary aged children up to year 11 in addition to the primary school children campaign. The School Nursing teams have prepared an autumn term programme for delivery of nasal flu vaccine to all age years eligible across our schools. In order to ensure core school nursing roles and responsibilities are maintained during this crucial term for our children and young people, the School Nursing teams will be supported by staff from the MVCs, as well as staff from the Immunisation & Vaccination team.

Consent forms will be sent to all children via their schools on their return in early September 2022 with the proposed start date of the vaccination programme beginning at the end of September. Delivery plans will be shared with our Local Authority Education leads and Head teachers.

Immunisation & Vaccination Team

The experience and knowledge within this small team will be crucial in ensuring we are able to maintain delivery of all immunisations and vaccinations during this period. They will actively support any staffing needs within the school flu programme as well as supporting our inpatient and housebound vaccination for those not being delivered by their GP.

During this autumn / winter period the team will be available to continue to support GPs in ensuring we are offering all childhood immunisation to those requiring and will ensure no child is not receiving their vaccine due to system or staffing pressures.

Occupational Health Team

The Occupational Health team will be supporting the roll out of the flu vaccines following the initial invite to an MVC to continue the momentum of reaching as many of our staff groups as possible. This will be through the use of regular drop in clinics on the acute hospital sites as well as supporting training of peer vaccinators at ward / department level. Where opportunities align, staff from MVCs will ensure COVID-19 vaccines are available at the drop in sessions on site and will also be available to support ongoing flu delivery, recognising the additional pressures within the Occupational Health service and their need to maintain essential services.

Occupational Health will also be supporting the delivery of flu to our over 65 years of age staff group through focused clinics.

Proposed 'Surge' Vaccination Plan

A letter was received by all Health Boards in Wales from the NHS Wales Chief Executive dated 24th August 2022, identifying the need to develop an emergency surge response for COVID-19 vaccination which would mirror the delivery during the Omicron booster surge last year. This equates to the need to be able to deliver at short notice over a potentially shortened period. The emphasis and planning needed for this surge has changed and will need to focus on how we include those people who are not currently eligible for an autumn booster.

With this in mind, a surge plan will be developed to take into account two possible delivery time periods, namely pre-Christmas and post-Christmas. This delivery will be focused in the MVC approach and will not be aligned to a flu plan for this group.

Risks and Mitigation

There are a number of risks identified for both the proposed delivery plan for the autumn programme and also to note for the 'surge' vaccination plan and these are detailed below:

- Dependant on the vaccine supply, there could be an impact on the fluidity of programme delivery
- Training requirements and necessary supporting information not available at the start of the programme with sufficient time to enable all staff to attend
- Staff availability across MVCs and supportive in reaching approach to inpatients and any subsequent population groups needing to be brought to an MVC
- Potential staffing deficit if COVID-19 or other sickness surges during the surge period or vacancies increase across vaccination team
- Potential risk that patients will choose one or other vaccine and not attend for both, or attempt to attend an MVC
- Primary Care contractors may encounter difficulties in continuing delivery for both COVID-19 and flu vaccines following start of programme

In order to mitigate for the above the following actions are detailed below:

- Close working with national teams to ensure vaccine supply is able to continue to support delivery plan
- Delivery plan updates on weekly basis from Primary Care contractors to enable fluid approach to vaccine supply
- Weekly detailed scheduling for MVC clinics tailored to vaccine availability
- Training package supported by Senior Nurse Immunisation & Vaccination Team, working closely with Public Health Wales (PHW), to ensure roll out across Primary Care and MVC for both COVID-19 and flu
- Extension of temporary contracts of existing MVC staff to end March 2023 via Use of Resources group to ensure expertise and skills maintained to match delivery timescale and prevent impact on wider Health Board services
- Working with Primary Care contractors to ensure no-one left behind for their autumn booster if they have not come forward at first invite or do not wish to have vaccines co-administered
- Weekly close working between programme leads and Primary Care leads to ensure rapid relocation of population for COVID-19 vaccines in place if any issues arise in a practice.

Current Actions and Next Steps

Due to the added complexity of delivering the above, the winter respiratory vaccination programme will be carefully monitored through a variety of means to ensure its effective delivery:

- Fortnightly partnership (IN-FLU) meetings will be held throughout the autumn / winter for delivery partners to check progress against partnership priorities and to address any emerging operational issues from the Project Plan. This meeting will include any updates following the receipt of new Welsh Health Circulars, COVID-19 vaccine developments, and Flu and COVID-19 surveillance.

- Fortnightly partnership meetings of COVID-19 Vaccination Group to ensure alignment and employment of measures that can impact on maximising shared benefits and uptake by eligible at-risk populations and delivery of COVID-19 vaccines is maintained as per plan.
- Specific Issue meetings will be arranged with the Delivery Lead to mitigate any risks to the delivery of the programmes.
- In-season performance reports will be provided to the Strategic Development and Operational Delivery Committee (SDODC), and quality and safety issues reported through the Medicines Management Group up to the Quality, Safety & Experience Committee (QSEC), as required.
- Reporting and escalation of issues through directorate vaccination steering group and as required through the Health Board's governance framework.
- In the 2021/22 season, Occupational Health provided monthly reports for directorate leads on staff uptake at ward and department level. These were disseminated by directorate leads to ward and department managers to enable positive action in areas of low uptake. Due to the update of the Occupational Health Staff Record system, ward-level data monitoring is currently challenging; the focus this programme will be to record both the Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations with the Welsh Immunisation System (WIS) and to provide a reporting / uptake on a regular basis throughout the programme at HB level.
- The Public Health Team will produce regular uptake reports and analysis, using data from the Vaccine Preventable Disease Tabular Programme (VPDP) team within Public Health Wales (PHW), together with local and national campaign and surveillance updates. These reports will be provided to Practice Managers, Practice Flu Leads and Cluster Leads on a weekly basis during Phase One of the campaign. These comprehensive documents provide tailored information at a practice, cluster, county and Health Board level, alongside comparators with other Health Boards and the Wales average.
- Cluster-level uptake reports will be provided for discussion at Cluster/ Locality meetings throughout the season.
- Health Board representatives will participate in fortnightly National Influenza Action Group (NIAG) teleconferences and report back actions and emerging issues to local partners. National Winter Respiratory Vaccination Programme planning meetings will also be attended on a weekly basis to discuss emerging progress across Wales.
- An end-of-season debrief session will be held for all partners to evaluate and begin the planning process for the 2023-24 season.

Argymhelliad / Recommendation

The Board is asked to:

- **NOTE** the proposed delivery plan and the transition to delivering the COVID-19 vaccination programme in conjunction with the Flu programme for this autumn/winter;
- **NOTE** the proposed plan to maintain a hybrid approach to delivery across Primary Care and Mass Vaccination Centres, with delivery via Primary Care being our principal approach;
- **NOTE** the work underway to mitigate the risks to programme delivery and **TAKE ASSURANCE** from the control measures in place.

Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau) Objectives: (must be completed)	
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	Not Applicable
Safon(au) Gofal ac Iechyd: Health and Care Standard(s):	1.1 Health Promotion, Protection and Improvement 2.6 Medicines Management 5.1 Timely Access 7.1 Workforce
Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	All Strategic Objectives are applicable
Amcanion Cynllunio Planning Objectives	4A Public Health Delivery Targets 4M Health protection
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report 2018-2019	2. Develop a skilled and flexible workforce to meet the changing needs of the modern NHS 4. Improve Population Health through prevention and early intervention, supporting people to live happy and healthy lives

Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	Department of Health & Social Care. (2022, February 21). <i>Joint Committee on vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) statement on COVID-19 vaccinations in 2022</i> . GOV.UK. Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) statement on COVID-19 vaccinations in 2022: 21 February 2022 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Welsh Government. (2022, 2 March). <i>COVID-19 Vaccination Strategy for 2022</i> . COVID-19 vaccination strategy 2022 GOV.WALES UK Health Security Agency. (2022, 19 May). <i>JCVI provides interim guidance on an autumn COVID-19 booster programme</i> . GOV.UK. JCVI provides interim advice on an autumn COVID-19 booster programme - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk) Public Health Wales, COVID-19 vaccination data.
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	As noted within main body of report
Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Cyfarfod Bwrdd Iechyd Prifysgol:	Strategic Development and Operational Delivery Committee

Parties / Committees consulted prior to University Health Board:	
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Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)	
Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:	Not Applicable
Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:	It is important that there are effective plans in place for the 2022/23 COVID-19 Autumn Booster programme, not only to improve overall respiratory health in the population of Hywel Dda but also to protect those at risk, prevent ill-health and minimise further impact on health and social care services.
Gweithlu: Workforce:	As for Quality / Patient Care impact.
Risg: Risk:	Risks are detailed in the report
Cyfreithiol: Legal:	Not Applicable
Enw Da: Reputational:	Not Applicable
Gyfrinachedd: Privacy:	Not Applicable
Cydraddoldeb: Equality:	Not Applicable