# Autumn vaccinations – a comms toolkit to help people with learning disabilities

1. Context

* Children and adults with learning disabilities (aged 6 months and over) will be offered a flu vaccine this autumn:
* Vaccinations for children will begin from 1 September.
* Vaccination for adults will begin from October onwards.
* Covid-19 vaccinations will also be offered from October. A change this year is that the Covid-19 vaccine will only be offered to those who are aged 75+ or who have a weakened immune system.

1. Key messages

# Flu vaccination

* People with a learning disability can get a free flu vaccine this autumn.
* The flu vaccine helps to stop you getting very ill from flu.
* The flu vaccine is usually given as an injection as it gives adults the best protection. If you are very scared of needles, you may be able to have it as a spray up your nose.
* Please get your vaccines as soon as you are invited to make sure you are protected.
* If you do not get an invitation, you can still get vaccinated.
* If you were not invited for a flu vaccine or Annual Health Check last year, ask your doctor if you are on their learning disability register.
* You can have your vaccine at a GP surgery or a pharmacy.
* Bookings can be made from September on the NHS app, on the NHS booking website, or by calling 119.
* Children from Reception to Year 11 will be offered the flu vaccine at school. It will be given as a spray up the nose. Younger children can get the vaccine from their GP.

To parents/carers of infants/children:

* Flu vaccination is 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.

To carers:

* Flu vaccination is important to keep your loved one safe. It also helps to stop the spread to other members of the family.
* If you get Carers Allowance or you are the main carer for a family member, make sure you are on the carers register at your GP practice.
* Carers can get a free flu vaccine to protect themselves and their loved ones.

# Covid-19 vaccination

* People aged 75 or over, or those who have a weakened immune system because of an illness or treatment, can get a Covid-19 vaccine this autumn.
* The Covid-19 vaccine helps stop you from getting very ill from Covid-19.
* If you have had the vaccine before, having it again this autumn helps keep you protected.
* It is given as an injection.
* You may be able to have your flu and Covid-19 vaccinations at the same time.
* You will be invited by the NHS when your vaccinations are due. Please have each vaccination as soon as you are invited.

1. Bulletin copy

Stakeholder focused:

Support people with a learning disability to get their free flu vaccine this autumn

People with learning disabilities, and their carers, will be invited to get a free flu vaccine this autumn.

The vaccine helps protect against serious illness from flu. Most adults will get an injection, but if someone is scared of needles, they may be able to have the vaccine as a spray up the nose.

Help your communities get ready for their vaccination invitation this autumn by sharing this [easy read flu leaflet.](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6311db36e90e077b6a2c17fc/UKHSA_12388_flu_easy_read_leaflet_winter_2022.pdf)

Patient/carer focused:

Get your free flu vaccine this autumn

If you have a learning disability, you can get a free flu vaccine this autumn. Carers can also get vaccinated.

The flu vaccine helps to stop you getting very ill from flu.

Most people have it as an injection. If you are scared of needles, you may be able to have the vaccine as a spray up your nose.

Look out for your invite this autumn. If you have any questions, speak to your GP practice or pharmacy.

Primary care focused:

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

People with a learning disability, and their carers, can get a free flu vaccine from their GP practice or pharmacy this autumn.

Please encourage and support uptake of vaccinations using the following resources:

* [Easy read flu leaflet](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6311db36e90e077b6a2c17fc/UKHSA_12388_flu_easy_read_leaflet_winter_2022.pdf) and [poster](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6311dbf2e90e077b742767c8/UKHSA_12388_flu_easy_read_poster_2022.pdf)
* [Easy read invite letter](https://www.selondonics.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/LD-easy-read-Flu-invite.docx)
* A [film](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQynWG4LCnw) (produced by Misfits theatre company) about the range of reasonable adjustments you can make.

1. Resources

* [Video featuring Rachael and mum](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Fv%3D_hNgoYfXdw0&data=05%7C01%7Cmiranda.askew%40nhs.net%7Cf52eb36556934b29946808dbaf943337%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638296823263137530%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=8sycov8HrAcpHgTZETNOg1LSFYRe8%2FYkS8IIp1SpkLs%3D&reserved=0)
* [Video with Dr Roger Banks](https://gbr01.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.youtube.com%2Fwatch%3Ftime_continue%3D5%26v%3DM3Wh23PDnfE%26embeds_referring_euri%3Dhttps%253A%252F%252Fwww.england.nhs.uk%252F%26source_ve_path%3DMjg2NjY%26feature%3Demb_logo&data=05%7C01%7Cmiranda.askew%40nhs.net%7Cf52eb36556934b29946808dbaf943337%7C37c354b285b047f5b22207b48d774ee3%7C0%7C0%7C638296823263137530%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C3000%7C%7C%7C&sdata=L02DZzzvsSxEekzi8PHq%2BcGjKsIBfIt7jSjPMCGHVPk%3D&reserved=0)
* [Misfits video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQynWG4LCnw)
* [Easy read flu leaflet](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6311db36e90e077b6a2c17fc/UKHSA_12388_flu_easy_read_leaflet_winter_2022.pdf) and [poster](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/6311dbf2e90e077b742767c8/UKHSA_12388_flu_easy_read_poster_2022.pdf)
* [Flu vaccine video](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OqGSm0jaF9A)
* [Vaccine reasonable adjustments](C://Users/FrancesAdlam(NHSSout/Downloads/Vaccine%20reasonable%20adjustments.pdf)
* [Easy read invite letter](https://www.selondonics.org/wp-content/uploads/dlm_uploads/LD-easy-read-Flu-invite.docx)