



# Sussex Flu Vaccination Update

9 December 2020

## Flu vaccination guidance for managers of social care workers

**All adult social care workers who are in direct contact with patients and service users are entitled to the free flu vaccine**

Those working in a social care setting they are eligible, including care staff, domiciliary care staff and hospice staff:

- those working in a registered residential care or nursing home and who are directly involved in the care of patients or service users
- those working for a registered domiciliary care provider and who are directly involved in the care of patients or service users
- those employed through personal budgets and or personal health budgets, such as personal assistants

[Full Government flu vaccination guidance for social care workers](#)

Managers are asked to complete the capacity tracker with flu update rates for their staff to ensure the NHS has a full picture of uptake rates and to support planning for next year's flu season.

### How social care workers access the flu vaccine

The local NHS is advising social care workers to contact local pharmacies and their GPs to book an appointment for their flu jab, which is also available from GPs.

The flu vaccination is more important than ever this year, so if social care workers have not been able to book an appointment immediately the NHS have asked them to persist and to try again elsewhere or at a later date. If pharmacies or GPs do cannot provide flu jabs to social care workers immediately due to stock levels or prioritisation of flu vaccination, please ensure they are encouraged to try again, or are booked in for a later date.

[Letter of entitlement](#) for free flu vaccine for care workers to give to GPs and pharmacists. Social care workers are also advised to take their work ID or details for employment with them to access a free flu vaccine.

Personal assistants have also been provided with [Letter of entitlement](#) to a free winter flu vaccination for PAs employed by individuals confirming their eligibility for vaccination. See the government's website on [Personal care assistants guidance](#) for further information.

## Why social care workers get a free flu vaccination

Getting the vaccine will help social care workers to protect themselves, their families, and the people they care for from getting the flu.

For people in at-risk groups, such as those aged 65 or over or with an underlying health condition, flu can be a serious disease and can cause death and social care workers will be caring for many people in these at-risk groups.

Getting the vaccine will mean social care workers are much less likely to spread the flu.

Vaccination reduces the spread of flu among staff and service users, keeping social care services running and reducing the burden on the NHS during the winter.

This is true every year, but it is particularly important this year, as coronavirus (COVID-19) is still in circulation.

As the symptoms for flu and COVID are very similar, widespread vaccination against flu will make it easier for us to target COVID-19 testing and avoid disruption to care services.

[Easy Read materials](#)

[BSL and other languages \(translated resources\)](#)

