

LR/NT

2 August 2021

Dear Colleague,

***FLU IMMUNISATION PROGRAMME***

In light of the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic last year and the anticipated on-going impact this year, it is essential that we continue to do all that we can to help reduce the impact of seasonal flu and COVID-19 on those most at risk and the NHS. I am therefore pleased to advise you that Tayside Contracts is introducing a Flu Immunisation Programme for employees in 2021/22.

Demand for flu immunisation was very high last year and is expected to be very high again this year. Fortunately, we have managed to secure 500 immunisations to offer to employees who may wish to have one. The intention is to provide the immunisations via Tayside Contracts' occupational health provider, PAM Ltd by appointment. The immunisations will be granted on a first come, first served basis to any employee who does not already meet the eligibility criteria for an immunisation through The Scottish Government Adult Flu Immunisation Programme 2021/22.

Those already eligible for an immunisation through The Scottish Government Adult Flu Immunisation Programme have already been accounted for in preparation for this year's programme by the Government and it is important that employees who are eligible through this route do not then take up the offer of an immunisation from Tayside Contracts and prevent those who are not otherwise eligible from accessing an immunisation.

If you are unsure if you are eligible for an immunisation under The Scottish Governments' Adult Flu Immunisation Programme, a full list of the eligibility criteria is detailed on the attached appendix.

The offer of a flu immunisation is completely voluntary and you are under no obligation to accept one. However, I would politely encourage everyone to consider accepting this to help protect themselves from seasonal flu and also to help us protect the NHS from the impact of seasonal flu and COVID-19.

The logistics of rolling out the programme have still to be formalised and are very much dependent on the restrictions in place due to the COVID pandemic at the time. It is anticipated that the programme will commence late September/October 2021 and further information will be provided closer to the time.

In the meantime, should you wish to participate in Tayside Contracts' Flu Immunisation Programme and do not meet the eligibility criteria for an immunisation through The Scottish Government Adult Flu Immunisation Programme 2021/22, please confirm this to us by completing the online form by [clicking on this link](#) by 15 August 2021.

Please note that due to the limited number of vaccines available, an early response to this communication is advisable as we are unable to source any additional vaccinations and available vaccines will be allocated on a first come, first served basis.

In the meantime, should you wish to discuss the matter further, please contact your line manager in the first instance or Novella Tragham, Senior HR Business Partner on 07786 733225.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Keith McNamee', written in a cursive style.

Managing Director

## Flu Immunisation – Eligibility

Existing Groups (those eligible in previous flu seasons)

Eligible Group	Further Information
All patients aged 65 years and over.	Sixty-five and over” is defined as those aged 65 years and over by 31 March 2022.
Chronic respiratory disease aged six months or older.	Asthma that requires continuous or repeated use of inhaled or systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission. Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema; bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD).
Chronic heart disease aged six months or older.	Stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA). Conditions in which respiratory function may be compromised, due to neurological disease (e.g. polio syndrome sufferers).
Chronic kidney disease aged six months or older.	Chronic kidney disease at stage 3, 4 or 5, chronic kidney failure, nephritic syndrome, kidney transplantation.
Chronic liver disease aged six months or older.	Cirrhosis, biliary atresia, chronic hepatitis from any cause such as Hepatitis B and C infections and other non-infective causes
Chronic neurological disease aged six months or older.	Stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA). Conditions in which respiratory function may be compromised, due to neurological disease (e.g. polio syndrome sufferers).
Diabetes aged six months or older.	Type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs, diet-controlled diabetes.
Immunosuppression aged six months or older.	Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, bone marrow transplant. HIV infection at all stages, multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system (e.g. IRAK-4, NEMO, complement disorder).
Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen.	This also includes conditions such as homozygous sickle cell disease and coeliac syndrome that may lead to splenic dysfunction.
Pregnant women.	Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy (first, second or third trimesters).
People in long-stay residential care or homes.	Vaccination is recommended for people in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow the introduction of infection, and cause high morbidity and mortality. This does not include, for instance, university halls of residence etc
Unpaid Carers and young carers.	Someone who, without payment, provides help and support to a partner, child, relative, friend or neighbour, who could not manage without their help.

Health care workers.	Health care workers who are in direct contact with patients/service users should be vaccinated
Morbid obesity (class III obesity)*.	Adult with a Body Mass Index $\geq 40 \text{ kg/m}^2$

#### New Eligible Groups 2021/22

<b>Eligible Group</b>	<b>Additional Information</b>
NHS Independent Contractors.	This is defined as GP, dental, optometry practices, community pharmacists, laboratory staff (working on Covid-19 testing) and support staff.
Nursery, Primary and Secondary school Teachers and support staff.	This is defined as Teachers, Nursery Teachers and support staff working in close contact with pupils in both a Local Authority and Independent setting.
All people aged 50-64 years old.	50-64 years old by 31 March 2022.