

ALL STAFF UPDATE – VACCINATIONS

Autumn Vaccination Programme Starts with Booking Your Appointment Online

The Autumn vaccination programme will commence on Monday, September 5th and Lanarkshire health and social care staff (including independent contractors) can book an appointment to receive their annual flu vaccination and Covid Booster vaccination (if eligible) through the [online booking portal](#) which opens today.

Those eligible to receive both the flu and Covid-19 booster will get both vaccines at a single appointment.

All staff are eligible for the flu vaccination but only frontline health and social care staff will receive the Covid-19 booster, unless they are eligible under one of the criteria below:

- all adults aged 50 years and over
- those aged 5 to 49 years in a clinical risk group, including pregnant women
- those aged 5 to 49 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- carers aged 16-49 years

If you fall in to one of the criteria above, by getting your vaccine as part of the staff campaign, you will be able to access this earlier than would otherwise be the case if you were to wait for your respective slot in the overall vaccination programme.

Frontline health staff include, for example, all those who may be required to come into contact with patients/enter patient areas and also those who undertake supporting roles, so this would include e.g. receptionists and ward clerks: PSSD staff and staff of those contractors responsible for FM services; associated clinical support staff of independent primary care contractors; pharmacists and pharmacy technicians.

Appointments can be booked online from today (22nd) via any device through the [online booking portal](#).

Tobias Tipper, General Manager for the vaccination programme, said: “The flu vaccination and Covid-19 booster is important further protection for you, your colleagues and our patients. I would strongly encourage everyone eligible to come forward for their vaccinations during the first two weeks in September.

“Like every other year, all staff are eligible for a free flu vaccination.

“However, only frontline health and social care staff are eligible for the autumn Covid-19 booster unless they meet one of the other criteria for the vaccine.

“Please take the time to book an appointment.

“Those eligible for both the flu and Covid-19 booster vaccinations can book a single appointment and will receive both vaccines at the same time.

“When you attend for your vaccination you will be asked to provide proof of employment so please remember to bring your ID badge or a payslip.”

The [online booking portal](#) can now be accessed.

NB *There will be no vaccination service provided by Salus this year in the three acute hospitals and accordingly, staff must book an appointment at one of the six clinics being held across the Lanarkshire area between 5 and 18 September from 0830 to 2000hrs each day inclusive of weekends:*

- Airdrie Town Hall, Airdrie
- Alistair McCoist Complex. East Kilbride
- Eddlewood Public Hall, Hamilton
- Braidfute Retail Park, Lanark
- Link Community Centre, Cumbernauld
- Ravenscraig Regional Sports Facility, Motherwell

Appointments at these clinics can be booked via the online portal at a time that suits.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

I am under 50 but come under one of the other categories, can I receive my Covid-19 booster vaccine?

Yes

If I am eligible to receive both vaccines, will I receive them at the same time?

Yes

What flu vaccine will I receive?

The flu vaccine changes every year and the vaccine components are decided by the World Health Organisation. This year we will be using Flucelvax Tetra which is a cell-based quadrivalent influenza vaccine (QIVc). Further information on this vaccine can be found here: <https://www.medicines.org.uk/emc/product/9753/pil>

What Covid-19 booster vaccine will I receive? Will I receive the same vaccine that I did previously?

The Moderna bivalent vaccine will be used in NHS Lanarkshire for the booster dose.

Please read the following leaflet before attending for your vaccine:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1097997/Spikevax_bivalent_Original_Omicron_PIL.pdf

How will the vaccines be administered? Will they be injected into the same arm?

If receiving both vaccines at the same time, they will be injected into opposite upper arms.

Is it safe to receive both the flu vaccine and covid-19 booster vaccine at the same time?

Yes

Where can I find information on the safety of the Covid-19 booster vaccine?

The safety of the Moderna vaccine can be found here:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1097996/Spikevax_bivalent_Original_Omicron_SmPC.pdf

It has been less than 6 months since my last Covid-19 vaccination. Can I still receive the booster?

Yes. The booster should be offered no less than 12 weeks after the last does received.

It has been less than 6 months since my last Covid-19 vaccination. Can I still receive the flu vaccine?

Yes

If I reach 6 months since my last Covid-19 vaccine at a later date, can I book separate appointments for both my flu vaccine and Covid-19 booster?

Yes

If I recently tested positive for Covid-19, how long should I wait before receiving my Covid-19 booster?

Four weeks from date of test or first symptoms (whichever is earlier).

What proof of employment will I need to bring with me to my vaccination appointment?

NHSL ID Badge or payslip are both acceptable. If you have none of these with you, you may be asked to leave and return with ID.