

Flu and Covid autumn vaccine programmes brought forward

This year's autumn flu and Covid-19 vaccine programmes will start earlier than planned following the identification of a new Covid-19 variant.

The precautionary measure is being taken as the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) examines the variant BA.2.86, which was first detected in the UK in August.

Those most at risk from winter illness - including people in care homes for older people, the clinically vulnerable, those aged 65 and over, health and social care staff, and carers - will be able to access a Covid vaccine from mid-September and are encouraged to take up a vaccine as soon as possible.

The annual flu vaccine will also be made available to these groups at the same time wherever possible, to ensure they are protected ahead of winter.

Wherever possible, flu and Covid-19 vaccines can be administered at the same time.

Who is eligible?

Those **eligible for a flu vaccine** include:

- those aged 65 years and over
- those aged 6 months to under 65 years in clinical risk groups
- pregnant women
- all children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2023
- school-aged children (Reception to Year 11)
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers in receipt of carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person
- close contacts of immunocompromised people
- frontline workers in a social care setting.



Those **eligible for an autumn Covid vaccine** are:

- residents in a care home for older adults
- all adults aged 65 years and over
- those aged 6 months to 64 years in a clinical risk group
- frontline health and social care workers
- those aged 12 to 64 years who are household contacts of people with immunosuppression
- those aged 16 to 64 years who are carers
- staff working in care homes for older adults.

Advice when you need it

Our website provides a range of advice and information to help keep you up to date with the latest changes in health and social care.

Popular topics include our [mental health resources lists](#), our [A-Z guide to cost of living support](#) and [where to get out of hours healthcare](#). Visit the [Advice and information section](#) of our website to find out more.