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**To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board**

**Date: 25/1/2021**

**From: Jane Craig, Health Protection Programme Manager**

**Title: Update on the progress of the flu immunisation programme**

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## **1 Purpose**

The purpose of this report is to update the Health and Well Being Board on the delivery of the Flu immunisation programme to the key target groups and health care workers.

## **2 Recommendations**

To take note of the excellent work that has been undertaken to rapidly deliver the flu immunisation programme in Coventry within COVID-19 safety parameters.

## **3 Information/Background**

Due to the risk of flu and COVID-19 co-circulating this winter, the national flu immunisation programme was even more important than usual in protecting vulnerable people and supporting the resilience of the health and care system. Research suggests that people who are co-infected with flu and Covid-19 are more at risk of severe illness and are more than twice as likely to die than someone with Covid-19 alone (Stowe et al, 2020).

Planning and delivering the programme was more challenging this year due to the impact of COVID-19 on health and social care services, the need for social distancing measures, and the expansion of the eligible groups such as household contacts of those who are extremely clinically vulnerable. The data in this report demonstrates uptake of the flu vaccination programme from 1/9/20 to 27/12/20. The flu vaccination programme will end on the 31/1/21. This is a much-shortened schedule (5 months) than the usual 7-month schedule (Sept-Mar) to enable rapid protection from flu for the most vulnerable and to enable NHS delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination.

The table below demonstrates the uptake of flu vaccination in the key target groups between 1/9/20 and 27/12/20. It should be noted that due to a computerised data collection issue this data does not include approximately 10% of the 66 GP practices in Coventry and Rugby thus the data reported is likely to increase once full data is available.

Table 1 demonstrates that even though the schedule was condensed into a much shorter timeframe and was more complex due to the need to adopt social distancing all key target groups witnessed an increase in flu immunisation, apart from pregnant women which was a theme across the country.

**Table 1 – Proportion of the key target groups accessing the flu vaccination between 1/9/20 – 27/12/20 in comparison to uptake between 1/9/19 and 31/3/20 (shown in brackets).**

	65 and over	At-risk	All Pregnant Women	All Aged 2	All Aged 3
Coventry and Rugby CCG	78% (70.4%)	48.8% (44.4%)	41.7% (44.6%)	51.8% (39.8%)	54.4% (42.2%)

Table 2 demonstrates the uptake of the flu vaccine amongst health care workers at 1/12/19 and 1/12/20. It demonstrates that there has been an increase in the number of health care workers accessing the vaccine in comparison to the previous year.

**Table 2. Uptake of the flu vaccination by health care workers at 1/12/20 in comparison to 1/12/19**

Provider Name	Vaccine uptake (%) at 01/12/2020	Vaccine uptake (%) at 01/12/2019
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	68%	61%
Coventry and Warwickshire Partnership NHS Trust	59%	53%

Communication will continue to encourage uptake of the flu vaccination throughout the January 2021 period. We would like to thank all Councillors for their involvement in raising awareness of the flu vaccination with the population of Coventry.

#### **4 Options Considered and Recommended Proposal**

It has been agreed that a review of the delivery of the flu vaccination programme will be undertaken to identify best practice for use in the next flu vaccination delivery period.

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