

Coming back to the pharmacy for your flu jab – Important information for patients aged 65 years and over

Why am I being asked to come back another time to have my flu jab?

This year, there is a new flu jab (called the adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine or Fluad®) for people aged 65 years and above, which will better protect you against flu. Only one medicines company is making this new flu jab and so that people throughout the country have the same chance to get this flu jab, both pharmacies and GP surgeries are receiving the flu jabs in batches, with deliveries in September, October and November.

We are waiting to receive our next batch of this flu jab.

But I thought I needed to have the jab in September?

Flu usually becomes more common from December onwards. It can be earlier, but if you receive your flu jab in November or earlier you should still benefit from its protective effect. NHS England and Public Health England recommend that it is better to wait to have the flu jab that is most effective for your age group, even if that means having your jab slightly later in the year.

Can I get the flu jab somewhere else?

There is enough stock of the vaccine available across the country and another local pharmacy or your GP surgery may have stock of the recommended flu jab, so you could try contacting them to see if they can provide you with the recommended flu jab for your age group.

Why is it important that I come back for my flu jab?

People sometimes think a bad cold is flu but having flu can be much worse than a cold.

Some people are more susceptible to the effects of flu and this can include those aged 65 years and over. For them it can increase the risk of developing more serious illnesses such as bronchitis and pneumonia or it can make existing conditions worse. In the worst cases, flu can result in a stay in hospital, or even death. It is therefore important to have a flu jab as this helps to protect you.



What if I forget to come back to the pharmacy for my flu jab?

The greatest risk of catching flu is during the cold months until March. If you were not given a flu jab in the autumn, it is still sensible to be vaccinated if you remember anytime up until the spring since you run the risk of catching flu until then.

Can I have a different flu jab instead?

NHS England and Public Health England have advised that pharmacies and GP surgeries should not give people a non-recommended flu jab other than in exceptional circumstances. Having the recommended flu jab for people aged 65 years and over will give you the best possible protection against flu.

Why is this flu jab better than others?

The recommended flu jab for your age group, which is called an adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine (Fluad®), has a very small amount of a substance added to it which helps your body create a stronger immune response to the vaccine. This is not added to the other flu jabs. Public Health England has considered the research evidence on how effective the different vaccines are and has decided that adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine (Fluad®) is the most effective flu jab for your age group.

If I pay for this flu jab, can I get it any sooner?

No. All patients aged 65 years or over can have a free flu jab on the NHS. Community pharmacies and GP surgeries will be using all their supplies of this flu jab for patients aged 65 years or over for NHS flu jabs, so offering to pay will not get you the recommended flu jab any quicker.

Pharmacy contact details:

Our next delivery of Fluad® is due on:

