

Agenda Item: 12.0

<p style="font-size: 1.2em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>Governing Body Meeting held in public</i></p>	<p style="font-size: 1.5em; font-weight: bold; margin: 0;"><i>Report</i></p> <p style="margin: 5px 0 0 0;">Date of Meeting: 8 November 2018</p>
---	---

Report Title	<i>2018 Influenza Programme Implementation</i>		
Report Author	Presented By	Responsible Director	
Tony Medwell Business Manager – Joint Primary Care Commissioning Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group	Sally Adams Director of Commissioning for Out of Hospital and Primary Care	Sally Adams Director of Commissioning for Out of Hospital and Primary Care Signature <i>Sally Adams</i>	
Purpose for presenting report	<i>To advise the Governing Body on the progress of the 2018 influenza programme implementation and because of the introduction of a new type of vaccine for patients aged 65+ provide assurance that the programme is being delivered and risks are being managed</i>		
Action Required:	To give assurance		
Approval Route:	<i>The 2018 Influenza Programme Implementation is being monitored by the JPCCC (NHSE & BCCG)</i>		
Further Assurance:	<i>Updates on Influenza Vaccine rates will be provided to CCG on a weekly basis</i>		
Which Strategic Objectives does this report provide evidence for?			Please Tick ↓
We will commission high quality, safe and sustainable models of care that deliver effective clinical outcomes and patient experience using evidence based decisions and best practice			↓
We will ensure that there is a financially sustainable and affordable healthcare system in Bedfordshire.			↓
We will lead, engage and operate as an effective place based and STP wide system partner to achieve greater integration of care delivery.			
We will support local people and stakeholders to have an influence on services we commission to ensure our decisions are informed and shaped by local views and insights.			
We will operate and manage our Governing Body to the highest standards of accountability and transparency.			
Implications/Assessments	Yes	No	N/A
Have any financial implications been signed off by the Chief Finance Officer?	<i>[please tick if appropriate]</i>		↓
Have any quality implications been signed off by the Director of Nursing & Quality?			↓
Have any privacy implications been signed off by the Head of Information Governance?			↓
Have any conflicts of interest implications been signed off by the Corporate Office?			↓

Have any public engagement implications been signed off by the Head of Communications & Engagement?			✓
Has an Equality Impact Assessment been carried out?			✓
Key Risks	<p>The main risk is that the Flu Season commences before the delivery of the annual Influenza programme to the over 65 age group. This is due to a new more effective vaccine for this age group and the impact of having a phased delivery system, which is later in the year than usual. (There is no risk to the under 65s as the QIV Vaccine is readily available and is not phased).</p> <p>The risk being mitigated across the system is to ensure that where the supply chain is phased and supplies come in later than expected, that the high risk groups such as those with complex care needs and the over 75s are prioritised.</p> <p>There is a risk that over 65 patients who were expecting to be vaccinated earlier do not come back when supplies become more available.</p>		
Executive Summary	<p>The complexity of the 2018 Influenza Programme requires continuous monitoring to ensure adequate coverage of the over 65s this year. The impact of the changes on the supply chain are that a number of the over 65 year old patients will not necessarily be vaccinated as early in the season due to the phased supply over Sept-Dec. Normally many of these patients would have been vaccinated by mid-November. Therefore, it is recommended that the situation continues to be monitored and mitigated by NHSE and BCCG</p>		

Introduction

This year, three types of flu vaccine are being used in the flu programme. The aim is to benefit patients by ensuring that they have the most suitable vaccine that gives them the best protection against flu. The three vaccines are:

o **Adjuvanted trivalent flu vaccine (aTIV)** - This is licensed for people aged 65 years and over and is the vaccine recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations (JCVI) for this age group. The deliveries of aTIV to practices and pharmacies will be staged between September and early November.

o **Quadrivalent vaccine (QIV)** - This is recommended for children aged from 6 months to 2 years and in adults from 18 years to less than 65 years of age who are at increased risk from flu because of a long term health condition.

In general practice and via school based programmes:

o **Live attenuated influenza vaccine (LAIV)** - This is a nasal spray and is licensed for children and young people from 2 years old to less than 18 years of age. The age groups targeted in England for this vaccine in 2018/19 are two and three year olds (through their GP surgery) and school aged children in reception class through to Year 5 (through schools). If LAIV is clinically contraindicated QIV is used in this age group. Both are ordered centrally from Vaccine Supply.

This service is commissioned by NHS England from GP Practices and Pharmacies with the full support of BCCG and ELFT Community Services. Support is also being provided by the BCCG Communications team.

Monitoring Influenza in the Community

The Public Health Immunisation team advised that as would be expected for the time of year the first few cases of Influenza are being reported and we should continue prioritising as per the national guidance.

Vaccination coverage is being monitored through the National IMMFORM system. However, it is very early in the Vaccination Programme to obtain a comprehensive picture as most providers are focusing on Vaccinating and the uploading of information normally follows later. Comparative monthly reporting usually commences in November. Nevertheless, for information the current uptake is:

Summary of Flu Uptake % @ Week 42

	Wk 41	Wk 42
65+ (all patients)	27.7%	32.7%
Under 65 (at risk only)	17.4%	22.2%
All pregnant women	23.4%	29.5%
Children 2yrs old	5.5%	14.7%
Children 3yrs old	8.0%	17.6%
Children 4yrs old	14.1%	21.7%
Carers	13.5%	16.7%

Background

This year the commissioning of aTIV vaccine into the Influenza programme for the over 65s has introduced several complexities:

- General Practice, Pharmacy and Providers have had to understand the new ordering system and incorporate the changes for the over 65s into their clinics
- Unlike the QIV vaccine the aTIV has had a 3 phase delivery

The impact of the changes to the supply chain are that a number of the over 65 year old patients will not necessarily be vaccinated as early in the season due to the phased supply over Sept-Dec. Normally many of these patients would have been vaccinated by mid-November.

This issue has understandably created some many enquiries from patients and Health watch. However, there is national guidance provided for all providers on clinical prioritisation and a comprehensive question and answer sheet. This is important because where supplies have not yet arrived the over 65s have been asking for the Quadrivalent vaccine which is not recommended at this stage whilst supplies are still being delivered unless clinically indicated.

Discussion

Because of the unusual complexity outlined above there are several mitigating actions being taken and the three main groups that have been monitoring the situation are:

- The Flu Planning Group
- The Flu Steering Group
- An NHSE Director led Contingency Group – reporting to the Joint Primary Care Commissioning Committee
- Additionally there have weekly calls with NHS England to progress and update the issues as well as our internal communications with practice to keep them informed and deal with practice issues as they arise.

These groups have focussed on facilitating supply and the prioritisation of the most clinically at risk patients. This includes Patient's cared for by the Complex Care Team. Consequently, 700 Additional doses of Trivalent have been ordered for the Complex Care Team and we have implemented a separate contingency plan to safely transfer available stock from other providers to immunise these patients.

There has been new national guidance allowing the transfer of stock between providers making it easier to contingency plan and for providers to work together to resolve short term supply issues.

Nationally 400,000 additional doses have been commissioned from the manufacturer Seqirus. The monitoring team have facilitated the ordering process for practices and we are awaiting confirmation of delivery (likely to be phased).

Working with the LPC and Pharmacies deliveries and stock levels are being monitored. At the time of writing approximately half of practices and Pharmacies have received the supplies they ordered whereas the others initially received reduced supply requiring mitigation.

Working with the Medicines Management Team we have contacted Pharmacies and a small number of providers have been identified who may be able to assist with contingency support.

On the ground Practices and Pharmacies have been working closely sharing information for signposting. There have been situations where both the Practice and Pharmacy have been short of stock and there is clear prioritisation guidance in this situation where the providers are awaiting delivery.

Recommendation

- The Governing Body is asked to note the unusual complexities of the Influenza Vaccination Programme this year which includes two types of vaccine and a phased supply chain.
- The Governing Body is asked to note the mitigating actions being taken to jointly support the NHSE Public Health commissioners with the 2018 Influenza Programme and the situation continues to be monitored and mitigated.

References:

- a. **NHS England Gateway Reference: 08188 - FLU VACCINATION PROGRAMME DELIVERY 2018-19**

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/flu-programme-delivery-guidance-2018-19.pdf>

- b. **NHS England gateway reference: 07648 - Vaccine ordering for 2018-19 influenza season (Includes Frequently Asked Questions).**

<https://psnc.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/07648-Vaccine-ordering-for-2018-19-influenza-season-GPpharm-05022018.docx.pdf>