

10 October 2023

Dear Colleague

## Re: Flu and Covid Winter Vaccination for Front Line third sector colleagues

For some, flu and COVID-19 are unpleasant illnesses. But for many, particularly those with certain health conditions, they can be very dangerous and even life threatening. Every winter, thousands die from flu and people can still get very ill or die from COVID-19. Catching both viruses at the same time increases the risk of serious illness even further. Vaccinations are our best defence against flu and COVID-19 ahead of what could be a very challenging winter, and with the potential for a new COVID-19 variant to increase the risk of infection.

As frontline health or social care professionals, you're more likely to be exposed to these viruses, and of course, they can also be passed on to the people you care for, including care home residents, those with weakened immune systems and underlying health conditions. Those who work with individuals most at risk are encouraged to get both their flu and Covid vaccination.

We understand and appreciate the important role that voluntary organisations play in our healthcare and social support system in Leeds and the help they offer individuals and communities that are at greater risk of getting seriously sick or passing away due to illnesses. That's why we are committed to helping these non-profit organisations ensure their staff can get vaccinated against Covid and the flu to safeguard their own health and the health of the people they assist.

### **Organisations should identify and support staff who are working in front line patient contact roles to get vaccinated.**

As a health and social care worker, if you are advised by your employer to utilise the NHS complementary scheme you may need to present proof of your employment at your local GP or pharmacy when receiving the vaccine. If you are asked to provide proof, some of the things you could use are:

- a letter from your employer
- an ID badge
- a payslip

Members of staff will be able to find out more information about both vaccines by visiting [www.nhs.uk/flujab](http://www.nhs.uk/flujab) and [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccine](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccine).



### **Where to get the flu vaccine**

Eligible people can get their NHS flu vaccine at:

- their registered GP surgery
- [a pharmacy that offers NHS flu vaccination](#) (if aged 18 or over)
- some maternity services (if pregnant)

People do not have to wait for an invitation before booking an appointment.

[Find out more about the flu vaccine and how to get it](#)

### **How to book the COVID-19 vaccine**

Eligible people can get their COVID-19 vaccine at:

- their registered GP surgery if the surgery has opted into the COVID-19 programme. Your GP surgery will be able to confirm.
- [book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment online](#) – this is through the National Booking Service
- [go to a walk-in COVID-19 vaccination site](#)
- Call NHS 119 [When to call 119](#) - NHS ([www.nhs.uk](http://www.nhs.uk))

People do not have to wait for an invitation before booking an appointment.

Yours sincerely



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**NHS West Yorkshire Integrated Care Board**



**Sam Prince**  
**Interim Chief Executive**  
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