

### **Are you waiting for a Flu jab?**

Healthwatch Southend have received enquiries from residents that have concerns about getting their Flu jab this year. Local practices and NHS staff are working hard to make sure that as many people, who are eligible, get the vaccine before the Flu season starts in December.

### **Are you eligible?**

This year, the NHS is offering more people than ever a free vaccine. If you fall into one of these at-risk groups, then you will be eligible for a free vaccine:

- adults 65 and over
- people with certain medical conditions (including children in at-risk groups from 6 months of age)
- pregnant women
- people living with someone who is at high risk from coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)
- children aged 2 and 3 years on 31 August 2020
- children in primary school
- children in year 7 (secondary school)
- frontline health and social care workers

### **Have you been asked to wait?**

Overall, there is enough Flu vaccine for everyone who is eligible to get it before the Flu season starts in December. All GP practices, pharmacies and other services have been receiving vaccines in batches, and will continue to do so in the run-up to and over the Flu season.

It is important that you get the right vaccine for you. There are several types of Flu vaccines available. If you're eligible, you will be offered a vaccine that is recommended for you based on your age, which means some people will be offered a Flu vaccine that is in stock while others, who need a different type of vaccine may have to wait.

This year, some GP practices and pharmacies have used their early supplies of Flu vaccine, due to the high level of demand. This is why some people have been able to have theirs, while others have not.

### **Vaccinations for those aged 50-64**

You may have heard or seen that Flu vaccination are now available to a wider cohort of people. This includes 50-64 year olds (with or without a pre-existing condition) and people in the COVID-19 shielding category and their households. Across Southend, GP practices are working together to arrange to meet the new demand. In the meantime, practices will be using their pre-ordered vaccine stock to vaccinate people who were in the previous eligible categories.

NHS Guidance says that individuals between 50 and 64 years **may be offered Flu vaccine, following prioritisation of other eligible groups.**

If you would like to discuss further, or have a comment about access to a Flu Vaccination, please get in touch with Healthwatch Southend. You can find more information about Flu Campaign here: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>