**Drive through flu clinic frequently asked questions
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 **1. Why are you holding a drive through flu clinic?**

This year, more than ever, it is important for those who are eligible, to have a free flu vaccination administered in the safest way possible. Due to the Covid-19 pandemic we must ensure that we follow social distancing and offer alternative methods to how we have historically delivered our flu clinics. A drive through clinic is a good alternative as it allows patients to be safely administered with the vaccination in the comfort of their own car. Our staff will ensure that they follow the latest guidance in regards to PPE and social distancing.

*There will be lots of people there to help you access your free vaccination in a safe way. Following a simple one way system in the car park of the airport.*

**2. Am I eligible for the free flu vaccination?**

You should have the flu vaccine if you:

* are 65 years old or over
* are pregnant
* have certain medical conditions
* are living in a long-stay residential care home or another long-stay care facility
* receive a carer's allowance, or you're the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill
* live with someone who's at high risk of coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list) or you expect to be with them on most days over winter

Later in the year, the flu vaccine may be given to 50-64-year-olds. More information will be available later in the autumn.

However, if you are aged 50-64 in an at-risk group, you should not delay having your flu vaccine.

Frontline health and social care workers are also eligible to receive the flu vaccine. It's your employer's responsibility to arrange and pay for this vaccine.

* You may also be able to have the flu vaccine at the GP surgery or a local pharmacy offering the service if you're a frontline health or social care worker employed by a:
* registered residential care or nursing home
* registered homecare organisation
* hospice

You can also have the flu vaccine if you provide health or social care through Direct Payments (personal budgets) or Personal Health Budgets (such as Personal Assistants) or both. [Click here](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/who-should-have-flu-vaccine/) for more information.

**3. I can't drive/don't have access to a vehicle, what is being put in place for this?**

While we encourage all patients to either drive or be driven to our drive-through clinic for their own safety, we understand that this may not be possible in some cases. Please call us to discuss your circumstances and we will ensure that you will have access to a flu vaccination.

**4. Do I need an appointment?**

Yes. Only those who have an appointment will be given access to the drive through clinic. You can make an appointment by calling your Surgery AFTER 10am

**5. Can I make a group booking and car share with my family/neighbours?**

We are encouraging families and neighbours to car share wherever possible. To book multiple people in to the same time slot, please call us to arrange.

**6. Will I need to wear a mask?**

Yes. All people over the age of 10 in the car are required to wear face masks when at the drive through clinic.

**7. Will I need to get out of my car?**

No. Please stay inside your vehicle and a nurse will administer the vaccination through the open window. Please ensure that you are wearing a short-sleeved shirt/dress, or have the ability to have your sleeve rolled up to your shoulder.

**8. Can I get the flu from the flu vaccine?**

The injected flu vaccine cannot cause flu because there are no active viruses in the vaccine.

If you have what you think is flu after vaccination, it may be that you have caught a flu-like virus that's not really flu, or you may have caught flu before your flu vaccination had taken effect.

**9. How effective is the flu vaccine?**

Flu vaccine is the best protection we have against an unpredictable virus that can cause unpleasant illness in children and severe illness and death among at-risk groups, including older people, pregnant women and people with an underlying physical health condition.

Studies have shown that the flu vaccine will help prevent you getting the flu.

It will not stop all flu viruses and the level of protection may vary, so it's not a 100% guarantee that you'll be flu-free.

But if you do get flu after vaccination, it's likely to be milder and shorter-lived than it would otherwise have been.

There's also evidence to suggest that the flu vaccine can reduce your risk of having a stroke.

Over time, protection from the injected flu vaccine gradually decreases and flu strains often change.

New flu vaccines are produced each year, which is why people advised to have the flu vaccine need it every year.

[Find out more](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/how-flu-vaccine-works/) about how the flu vaccine works.

**10. Are there side effects to the flu vaccine?**

Serious side effects of the injected flu vaccine are very rare.

You may have a mild high temperature and aching muscles for a couple of days after having the vaccine, and your arm may be a bit sore where you were injected.

Side effects of the nasal spray vaccine can commonly include a runny or blocked nose, a headache, tiredness and some loss of appetite.

[Find out more](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-vaccine-side-effects/) about the side effects of the flu vaccine.