

Public Health Scotland Winter Vaccines

Vaccine Confidence and Equity Team, Public Health Scotland
18 August 2026



Eligible groups for winter vaccinations 2026

Flu vaccine

Children aged **6 months-2 years** with an eligible health condition



Children aged **2-5 years** (on 1 September 2026) and not yet at school



All primary and secondary school pupils



People aged **18-64 years** with an eligible health condition



People aged **65+**



All NHS staff



Health and social care workers in direct contact with patients or service users



People in a long-stay residential care home or other long-stay care facility



Unpaid or young carers



Household contacts of someone with a weakened immune system



Poultry workers, bird handlers, swine or cattle workers



Pregnant women



COVID-19 vaccine

and

Flu vaccine

People aged **6 months+** with a weakened immune system



Residents in care homes for older adults



People aged **75+**



www.nhsinform.scot/wintervaccines

Information correct at time of publication: August 2026

The RSV vaccine is also offered in pregnancy and to people who have not yet received a dose living in care homes for older adults, aged 75+, or those aged 65-74 with eligible conditions.

More info here:
[RSV vaccine | NHS inform](https://www.nhsinform.scot/wintervaccines)

Eligibility for winter vaccines is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). This guidance is reviewed every year so it's important to check what vaccines you are eligible for this year.

When will the programmes start and finish?

2026				2027		
September	October	November	December	January	February	March
Flu (From early Sept 2026 – 28 March 2027)						
COVID-19 (From 5 Oct – 31 Jan 2027)						
Co-admin of flu and COVID-19						

Programme delivery dates may vary by Health Board.

How will the programme run?

- Most eligible individuals will be contacted by letter, email or text message.
- They may be sent:
 - an appointment
 - a prompt to go online or phone to book an appointment
 - information about drop-ins

Some eligible groups might not be contacted directly, e.g. unpaid carers, household contacts of someone with a weakened immune system, or occupational risk groups. **Please raise awareness of their eligibility and that they can use the booking portal, national phone number, or contact their local board to find out local arrangements.**

Where will vaccines be offered?

In people's own homes, care homes, nurseries, schools, prisons, pharmacies, workplaces, mobile vaccination units, health centres, GP practices, community vaccination clinics.

Every part of Scotland will run their programme differently depending on available staff, premises and the needs of their local population.

How to book or change an appointment

Visit the national
booking portal:

<https://vacs.nhs.scot/>



Call national vaccination helpline
number:
0800 030 8013.

Monday to Friday 9am to 6pm and
Saturday 9am to 1pm

Register for MyCare.scot

The logo for MyCare, featuring the word "MyCare" in white text on a blue rounded rectangular background.

What is MyCare.scot?

MyCare.scot is a digital service that brings together your health and social care information in one secure place.

You can use MyCare.scot on the web or download the mobile app to view:

- your medicine and allergy information
- health and wellbeing services near you
- your Community Health Index (CHI) number
- your COVID-19 and flu vaccination record since 2021
- some of the details NHS Scotland has stored about you – like your home address

MyCare.scot will include more features soon.

When using MyCare.scot, your information is protected by the same safeguards that are used for your health and social care information generally.

Visit <https://www.nhsinform.scot/campaigns/mycare> for more information and instructions on how to register

Reasonable adjustments

- Additional support is available for those who need it.
- Call the winter vaccination helpline 0800 030 8013 if someone:
 - has a condition that means they're unable to leave home or if they need additional support at an appointment (for example, someone to support them when they arrive, a translator, a longer appointment or a private space to be vaccinated)
 - would like to discuss the possibility of getting vaccinated at the same time as an eligible carer or household contact.
- The helpline team will ensure the enquiry is directed through the appropriate local Health Board process
- Carers, sighted guides, translators and assistance dogs are welcome at appointments. People can bring children to the vaccination appointment if childcare is not available.

Adults with incapacity

When a section 47 certificate is needed

If the person can't consent, a doctor (or other authorised healthcare professional) will issue a section 47 certificate of incapacity. This provides the legal authority for treatment to be given.

A section 47 certificate will always be needed, even if a legal proxy is involved. This is because:

- the certificate confirms that the person can't consent
- it gives legal authority for healthcare professionals to provide treatment
- the legal proxy is then involved in making decisions about that treatment

Source: [How healthcare decisions are made | NHS inform](#)

Section 47 certificate



Important information about vaccinations for carers, guardians and relatives

_____ [insert patient name] attended their vaccination appointment today. Unfortunately, we were unable to vaccinate them because a Section 47 (S47) certificate was not available.

What happens next?

<Health Board to amend for local call to action> We will email their GP practice to request that a valid S47 certificate is completed and emailed to the vaccination team. Once we have received the S47 certificate from your GP, we will contact you to reschedule the appointment.

What is an S47 certificate?

An S47 certificate of incapacity is a legal document that allows health professionals to provide medical treatment, such as vaccination, to an adult (aged 16 or over) who cannot consent for themselves under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act 2000. This is a legal requirement across all health services in Scotland that helps ensure people are treated safely and lawfully.

What is the difference between a legal representation document and an S47 certificate?

- **Your welfare power of attorney (PoA), welfare guardianship or intervention order** allows you to provide consent on behalf of the person getting vaccinated.
- **An S47 certificate valid for vaccination** gives a health professional the legal permission to vaccinate the person you care for.

This means that an S47 certificate is needed even if you have a welfare PoA, welfare guardianship or intervention order.

Where can I get more information?

- Visit www.nhsinform.scot/nhs-services-carers to find out more about carers using NHS Scotland services.
- The Mental Welfare Commission for Scotland (MWC) helps to look after the rights and welfare of those with mental illness, learning disabilities and other related conditions. Visit www.mwscot.org.uk/contact-us for information on people's rights under the Adults with Incapacity (Scotland) Act and advice for carers, guardians and relatives.

Resources to support informed consent

Informed consent information available on all programmes here:
<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/>

Information is produced as standard in:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Audio• BSL• Easy read• Large print | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Arabic• Chinese (Mandarin/Simplified or Cantonese/Traditional)• Polish |
|---|--|

You can request another format or language (for example Braille) by emailing: phs.otherformats@phs.scot

Additional resources

- [Scotland's 5-year Vaccination and Immunisation Framework and Delivery Plan](#) – strategy published in November 2024
- [Protecting the population of Scotland from vaccine preventable diseases: Vaccination and Immunisation Report in 2025](#) – annual report published June 2026
- [PHS Vaccination Surveillance](#) – dashboard which presents vaccine uptake data by programme and demographics
- Scottish Vaccine Update – [Subscribe](#) to keep up to date with vaccination programmes (aimed at healthcare practitioners)
- [Vaccine Knowledge Project](#) - source of independent, evidence-based information about vaccines and infectious diseases.