

Eligible groups for the flu vaccine
(Aged 6 months or older)

<p>Chronic respiratory disease</p>	<p>Asthma that requires continuous or repeated use of inhaled or systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission.</p> <p>Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema;</p> <p>Bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia (BPD).</p> <p>Children who have previously been admitted to hospital for lower respiratory tract disease.</p>
<p>Chronic heart disease</p>	<p>Congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, chronic heart failure, individuals requiring regular medication and/or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease.</p>
<p>Chronic kidney disease</p>	<p>Chronic kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, kidney transplantation.</p>
<p>Chronic liver disease</p>	<p>Cirrhosis, biliary artesia, chronic hepatitis</p>
<p>Chronic neurological disease</p>	<p>Stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA). Clinicians should consider on an individual basis the clinical needs of patients including individuals with cerebral palsy, multiple sclerosis and related or similar conditions; or hereditary and degenerative disease of the nervous system or muscles; or severe neurological disability.</p>
<p>Diabetes</p>	<p>Type 1 diabetes, type 2 diabetes requiring insulin or oral hypoglycaemic drugs, diet controlled diabetes.</p>

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Immunosuppression	Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment.
	<p>Patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression.</p> <p>Asplenia or splenic dysfunction, HIV infection at all stages.</p> <p>Individuals treated with or likely to be treated with systemic steroids for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone at 20mg or more per day (any age).</p>
<p><i>Consideration should also be given to the vaccination of household contacts of immunocompromised individuals, i.e. individuals who expect to share living accommodation on most days over the winter and therefore for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable. This may include carers (see below).</i></p>	
Pregnant women	Pregnant women at any stage of pregnancy (first, second or third trimesters).
<p>People living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities.</p> <p><i>(This does not include, for instance, prisons, young offender institutions, or university halls of residence.)</i></p>	Vaccination is recommended.
Carers	<p>Those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer, or the carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.</p> <p><i>(Please note – this category refers to individual carers entitled to a free flu vaccine on the NHS, not professional health and social care workers who should be vaccinated by their employer as part of an occupational health programme.)</i></p>

This list is not exhaustive