



Autumn/Winter 2021-22 Vaccinations Programme

Unpaid carers Q&A

What is the Autumn/Winter Vaccination Programme?

The Autumn/Winter programme is delivering the flu and COVID-19 booster vaccines to those who are eligible. First and second COVID-19 vaccine doses are also still being offered to those who haven't had them.

Why is the flu vaccine being delivered differently this year?

People who are eligible are also being offered the chance to get their flu and COVID-19 booster vaccines at the same appointment, where possible.

I am an unpaid carer – will I be eligible for the flu vaccine this year?

Yes. **All unpaid carers and young carers are eligible for the free flu vaccine.**

This year, the eligible groups have been extended to also include everyone aged 50 and over and all primary and secondary school children. Further information about the eligible groups can be found on NHS Inform.

Will unpaid carers be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccination?

Yes. NHS Scotland has been following the JCVI advice and offering a booster dose to those most at risk first. **Unpaid carers aged 16 and over are now eligible to book their appointment.**

You can only **receive your coronavirus booster dose 3 months (12 weeks) after your second dose.** NHS Scotland will aim to give you both COVID-19 booster and flu vaccines at the same time where possible.

Will I need to prove that I am an unpaid carer in order to get the flu and COVID-19 booster vaccines?

No. You will not have to show any form of verification when you book, or when you attend your appointment, to prove you are an unpaid carer.



How do I make an appointment for the flu and COVID-19 booster vaccines if I am an unpaid carer?

- Young carers in primary and secondary school will be offered the flu vaccine as part of the schools programme.
- Those aged 60 and over should have been contacted by their local NHS health board with details about their appointment for both vaccines. If you are 60 and over and have not yet received an invite, you can use the online booking system or call the national phoneline.
- Those aged under 60 should use the online booking system **www.nhsinform.scot/carersregister** or call the national phone line on **0800 030 8013** to book an appointment for both vaccines.
- You will need your unique username, postcode, date of birth and email address. Your username is the same as the one provided on your previous COVID-19 vaccine appointment letters. If you cannot find your username, you will be able to recover it by using the 'recover username' option on the portal online or by calling the helpline.

Are all areas in Scotland using the National Vaccination Portal for online bookings?

The following NHS Boards will **not be using the online booking system: NHS Shetland, NHS Western Isles, and NHS Orkney**. Instead you will be contacted by your GP Practice or Health Board.

In addition, **NHS Highlands** will be providing a blended model. This means that people in Inverness may be able to book online, while people from other areas will be contacted by their GP Practice or NHS Highlands. More information is available on the NHS Highlands Website here:

<https://www.nhshighland.scot.nhs.uk/News/Pages/UpdateontheNationalVaccinationPortalinNHSHighland.aspx>

When will I be offered the flu and COVID-19 booster vaccines?

- Carers aged 60 and over should have already received a letter with their appointment details. If you are 60 and over and have not yet received an invite, you can use the online booking system or call the national helpline.
- Carers aged 16-59 can now book an appointment online or on the phone. Appointments will run through December.

Further Information

You can find more information on vaccinations for unpaid carers on NHS Inform.

There is an interactive guide on NHS Inform for everyone to check which vaccines they are eligible for and how and when they will be called for or book their appointments.

If you need additional support to get to, or interpretation support during your appointment please visit www.nhsinform.scot/transport-and-interpreter or call 0800 030 8013.