



## Infection Prevention team Newsletter August 2023

As we approach the end of summer it is essential to ensure winter plans are in place early to ensure the health and well being of residents and staff. Please ensure all residents and staff are encouraged and supported to take up the offer of Covid-19 autumn booster vaccination and Influenza Vaccination. By taking up the offer of vaccination you are not only protecting yourself from serious illness but protecting the people around you. Vaccination is a safe and effective, serious side effects from vaccinations that cause long term health problems are rare. The benefits of vaccination far outweigh the potential risks.

**Flu Vaccination** is very safe and further information can be found via this [link](#). The flu vaccination is changed every year to ensure the best possible coverage. This is because the variants of flu change all the time. By changing the vaccine this ensures the best possible protection. It is a myth that the flu vaccine gives you the flu. The virus that the vaccine is made on is not live therefore cannot replicate, these vaccines cannot cause disease. If you are unfortunate enough to become sick with a respiratory infection after receiving the flu vaccination it is likely that you came into contact with a respiratory infection prior to or around the time of vaccination. Vaccination takes around 2 weeks to provide protection against the virus. The department of health and social care has recently published the national flu immunisation program 2023 to 2024 letter click this [link](#) to see the letter in full.

**Covid-19 Vaccination** is safe and effective. It gives you the best protection against serious disease from Covid-19. Data from last autumn's Covid booster program shows those who received a Covid-19 booster were around 53% less likely to be admitted to hospital with Covid-19, in the 2 to 4 weeks after vaccination. This is in comparison to those who did not receive a booster. It is predicted over the winter months there will be a rise in Covid-19 cases with co-circulating flu. The joint committee on vaccination and immunisation (JVCI) has announced its advice and guidance for this autumn Covid-19 booster program. As part of the vaccination program front line health and social care workers are eligible click this [link](#) for more information.

### Other vaccination updates:

- Planned changes to the shingles vaccination schedule have been outlined - see NHS webpages for further information using this [link](#)
- There has been a significant increase in measles cases in England this year with 128 infections since 1<sup>st</sup> January (some of these cases have been in the North West). If you or your family have not had 2 doses of the MMR vaccine please make an appointment with your GP surgery.

**Training:** In addition to the training program currently provided by the IPC team we would like your suggestions on topics and content you would like us to include. Please take a moment to tell us here using this [link](#)