

IMMUNISATIONS FOR ADULTS



protecting you and your community

Call your GP to book

Pneumococcal

- Pneumococcal disease is the term used to describe infections caused by the bacterium 'streptococcus pneumoniae' such as bronchitis, pneumonia and meningitis.
- Complications can follow after mild illness and lead to more serious infections.
- The risk of pneumococcal disease is greater for adults aged 65 years or older and for those with conditions such as chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD).
- Adults aged 65 years and over (and clinical risk groups aged 2 years or over) are eligible for a pneumococcal vaccine.
- All eligible patients can get their one-off pneumococcal vaccination by contacting their GP (you can have this at any time of year).



Influenza ("flu")

- Influenza (or "flu") is an acute viral infection of the respiratory tract that is highly infectious.
- The risk of serious illness from influenza is higher amongst older people, and those with underlying health conditions such as respiratory or cardiac disease.
- These groups are at higher risk of developing complications such as bronchitis or secondary bacterial pneumonia.
- The purpose of the influenza vaccination programme is to protect those most at risk of developing complications.
- Those aged 65 years and over are eligible for an annual flu vaccine (usually September - March).



Shingles

- Shingles (or "herpes zoster") is caused by the reactivation of a latent varicella zoster virus (or "chickenpox") infection, generally decades after.
- The risk and severity of shingles increases with age.
- Older adults more frequently experience a severe form of the disease which can result in secondary complications including persistent pain and secondary bacterial skin infections.
- Severely immunosuppressed individuals aged 18 years and over are eligible for the vaccine ("Shingrix").
- Those turning 65 and 70 years from 1st September each year will be offered the vaccine, and will remain eligible up to their 80th birthday.



Respiratory syncytial virus ("RSV")

- Respiratory syncytial virus (or "RSV") is a common cause of respiratory tract infections.
- For older adults, the virus can lead to more severe illness.
- RSV has been estimated to account for 5,000 - 7,500 deaths in older adults in England and Wales every winter.
- RSV infections occur year-round but primarily October to March.
- Those turning 75 years of age should be offered RSV vaccination on or shortly after their 75th birthday (you can have this at any time of year).
- If you are older than 75 but have not had an RSV vaccine, please contact your GP.



COVID

- COVID-19 is a disease of the respiratory tract caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus.
- COVID-19 vaccination is a targeted offer for those at higher risk of severe disease such as older adults and immunosuppressed people. The vaccine is offered during seasonal campaigns: an autumn campaign and a spring campaign.
- Eligible groups may change in response to evidence, but for the autumn campaign in 2025, they included: adults aged 75 years and over; residents in a care home for older adults and individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed, as defined in tables 3 and 4 of the [Green Book COVID-19 chapter](#).
- It is a single vaccine per campaign.



Recommended immunisations may change if you are older than the recommended age or have a medical condition - please check with your GP