**From:** Ospedale, Catherine [mailto:Catherine.Ospedale@ggc.scot.nhs.uk]
**Subject:** Flu vaccination programme - media statement

Dear all,

We have issued the following statement to the BBC and The Herald this evening in relation to the flu programme. This has been approved by the programme team and our Director of Public Health. Please feel free to use the statement as required locally.

**NHS GREATER GLASGOW AND CLYDE STATEMENT**

**ON FLU VACCINATIONS**

We understand that people who are yet to receive their appointment letter may have concerns and we would like to reassure those in the 65+ age group that they will receive it in the next 3-5 weeks.

NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, along with a number of other Scottish Boards, has utilised the Scottish Immunisation Recall System to offer appointments which schedules appointments from the youngest to the oldest.   However, this system will still offer all over 65’s in the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area an appointment before the flu season begins at the end of November.

The timing of the flu season varies each year but usually commences later in December or in the New Year, followed by two to three months of flu transmission.

Although it takes around two weeks to make a response to the vaccine, immunisation before end of December should provide protection although the aim is to immunise as early as possible.

In August the Scottish Government asked that NHS Boards and Health and Social Care Partnerships (HSCP) play a significant role in delivery of flu vaccination programme, which has been a significantly extended this year.

While GP surgeries have undertaken flu vaccination for the majority of patients in the past, this year is different due to effects on us all of living with COVID - the need for large scale vaccination centres that can more easily manage social distancing, infection control and manage the flow of patients were therefore needed.

It was agreed within NHSGGC area that GPs would deliver flu vaccinations to their 18-64 year-old at risk groups with HSCPs/NHS Board delivering the vaccine to other eligible groups.  This year’s flu programme needs to vaccinate approximately double what has been done in previous years

Patients will receive a letter with their appointment details from the national system – please note that patients must not ‘walk up’ for a vaccination. If a patient cannot attend their appointment day/time they can contact our GGC call centre on 0141 201 4180 or email adult.flu@ggc.scot.nhs.uk in order to re-book for a more suitable date.

All those identified as permanently housebound by their GP practices and notified to the HSCP will receive a domiciliary visit for their flu vaccination.

Where possible the District Nurse teams will take additional vaccines to immunise eligible household members at the same time.

We would like to apologise to our patients for any inconvenience this may cause and would ask that every effort is made to attend appointments. If needed, a patient can contact (by telephone or email) the call centre to rearrange the appointment for a later and more suitable date.

**ENDS**

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