**Subject:** Management of Fever following vaccination in the context of COVID-19 pandemic

Dear All,

As we are about to start one of our biggest flu vaccination campaigns in Scotland, a number of NHS Boards have requested guidance on how to manage children and adults who develop fever following vaccination. Clearly, managing fever that develops following vaccination is nothing new to front line clinicians, but during the current pandemic with fever being one of the symptoms associated with COVID-19, it is critical that the way we manage fever post-vaccination is consistent and appropriate in all settings.

You may already be aware of the Public Health England guidance approved via the UK-wide Flu Vaccination Programme Board as below:

**Fever following flu vaccination**

**Vaccinated individuals, parents and carers should be advised that flu vaccines may cause a mild fever which usually resolves within 48 hours. This is a common, expected reaction and isolation is not required unless COVID-19 is suspected.**

**Feeling generally unwell, shivery, achy and tired are also commonly reported symptoms following flu vaccination. These symptoms usually disappear within one to two days without treatment but paracetamol can be given if necessary to relieve any of these symptoms.**

**As has always been recommended, any fever after vaccination should be monitored and if individuals, parents or carers are concerned about their, or their child’s health at any time, they should seek advice from their GP or NHS 111.**

[**https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/917251/Inactivated\_influenza\_vaccine-information\_for\_healthcare\_practitioners\_2020\_to\_2021.pdf**](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/917251/Inactivated_influenza_vaccine-information_for_healthcare_practitioners_2020_to_2021.pdf)

In addition to the above, we have now drafted advice for use in Scotland that has been agreed by the COVID-19 Clinical Cell in Scotland and the UK Senior Clinicians Group:

“*If someone develops fever post vaccination, this should usually resolve within 48 hours. This is a relatively common, expected reaction, and self-isolation and testing for COVID-19 are not required unless COVID is suspected based on other clinical criteria such as cough and/or anosmia.*

*If fever persists beyond 48 hours or an individual develops other COVID-19 related symptoms, then they should self-isolate and be recommended to have a test for COVID-19. Testing for COVID-19 may also be considered at any time following clinical assessment, or if there are other epidemiological indications such as being a close contact of a case or part of a cluster.”*

With thanks and warm regards,

Nicola

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