

## **Changes in COVID-19 vaccination eligibility for autumn/winter 2025/26**

- Every year, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) considers who needs to be vaccinated, to help protect people from serious illness. Their advice on COVID-19 has changed because the threat from COVID-19 has changed. It has become a common milder infection for most people.
- This autumn/winter, vaccination is being offered only to people at highest risk of serious illness - older people and those who have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment. This is different to previous years.
- It's possible for you to be eligible for a flu vaccine but not eligible for COVID-19 vaccination, even if you've had it previously.
- For autumn/winter vaccination invitations, NHS England uses information from NHS records to check who is eligible for vaccination.
- Information in these records may no longer be relevant if the health condition has resolved or the diagnosis or medicines has changed.
- The clinician at the vaccination site will check eligibility before every vaccination.
- More information can be found at [www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/invite-enquiry](https://www.england.nhs.uk/contact-us/invite-enquiry)

### **You can get the autumn/ winter COVID-19 vaccine if you:**

- are aged 75 or over (including those who will be 75 by 31 January 2026)
- are aged 6 months to 74 years and have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment (see below)
- live in a care home for older adults

### **You may be eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine if you have a weakened immune system because of a health condition or treatment. This can include if you:**

- have or had blood cancer, such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma
- have had an organ transplant, bone marrow transplant or stem cell transplant
- have HIV
- have a genetic disorder that affects your immune system, such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID)
- are having or recently had chemotherapy, biological therapy or radiotherapy
- are taking steroid medicine (depending on the dose)
- are having long-term immunosuppressive treatment for a condition such as lupus, rheumatoid arthritis, inflammatory bowel disease (IBD), scleroderma or psoriasis
- A full list of conditions can be found on page 35 and 36 of [the Green Book](#)

Not sure if you're eligible? This list doesn't include all eligible health conditions. Speak to your local pharmacy, GP practice or specialist to check.

## Eligibility for the flu vaccine autumn/winter 2025/26

The flu vaccine is recommended for people at higher risk of getting seriously ill from flu.

### **You can get the free NHS flu vaccine if you:**

- are aged 65 or over (including those who will be 65 by 31 March 2026)
- have certain long-term health conditions (see below)
- 2-3 year olds
- school aged children (reception to year 11)
- are pregnant
- live in a care home
- are the main carer for an older or disabled person, or receive a carer's allowance
- live with someone who has a weakened immune system

Frontline health and social care workers can also get a flu vaccine through their employer.

### **The flu vaccine is recommended for people with certain long-term health conditions, including:**

- conditions that affect your breathing, such as asthma (needing a steroid inhaler or tablets), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or cystic fibrosis
- heart conditions, such as coronary heart disease or heart failure
- chronic kidney disease
- liver disease, such as cirrhosis or hepatitis
- some conditions that affect your brain or nerves, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy
- diabetes or Addison's disease
- a weakened immune system due to a condition such as HIV or AIDS, or due to a treatment such as chemotherapy or steroid medicine
- problems with your spleen, such as sickle cell disease, or if you've had your spleen removed
- a learning disability
- being very overweight – a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above

Speak to your GP surgery or specialist if you have a health condition and you're not sure if you're eligible for the flu vaccine.