



The **WINTER 2018/19** flu vaccination

Information for those aged 65 years old and over

This winter, people aged 65 and over are being offered a flu vaccine called Fludax®. This is the best vaccine currently available for people in this age group because it contains an adjuvant that helps the immune system create a stronger response to the vaccine.

Fludax® is expected to provide better protection for older people and result in fewer hospitalisations and GP consultations from flu this winter. The vaccine is being delivered to GP practices and pharmacies between September and the end of November, meaning that appointments for flu vaccination will be more spread out than in previous years.

Why am I being asked to wait to have my flu vaccine?

This year Fludax® is being delivered in phases between September and November and so you may have to wait until your GP surgery or pharmacy receives their next scheduled stock of the vaccine.

Can I go elsewhere if my GP practice or pharmacy has run out?

If your GP practice has no Fludax®, you can ask a pharmacy whether they do. If your pharmacy currently has no vaccine then you should check with your GP practice. GP practices and pharmacies will be able to tell you when they expect their next delivery of Fludax®.

What is an adjuvant and why is it better?

An adjuvant is a substance added to a vaccine to help to stimulate the immune system to create a better response to a vaccine. This vaccine has been widely used in many other countries. It has been shown to offer better and longer lasting protection in older people than flu vaccines without an adjuvant.

Wouldn't it be better to have another flu vaccine rather than wait?

It is important that you benefit from having the most effective vaccine, so it is better to wait for Fludax® if you are aged 65 or over.

Is having Fludax® in November too late to offer protection?

Flu usually starts from December onwards so if you are vaccinated in November you should benefit from its protective effect. It is better to wait for the vaccine that is most effective for your age group.

Where can I get further information?

Your GP practice or pharmacy will be able to provide further information.

