

NHS England
Regatta Place
Brunswick Business Park
Summers Road
Liverpool
L3 4BL

1 September 2022

Dear colleague,

NHS flu vaccinations for people with a learning disability

Since 2014/15, people with learning disabilities have been eligible for the flu vaccination free of charge. Despite this, there is low uptake of the flu vaccination in young adults with learning disabilities. We are writing to ask for your help in protecting those people you support who have learning disabilities from influenza (flu) this winter.

Due to The Confidential Inquiry into the Deaths of People with Learning Disabilities (CIPOLD) report finding that respiratory problems were a major cause of death in this group, people with learning disabilities are identified as a high-risk group and are included in the seasonal flu vaccination programme.

If someone with a learning disability is anxious about needles, healthcare professionals can consider using less invasive alternatives. This would include the use of the nasal spray flu vaccine. The live intranasal flu vaccine used in the children's seasonal flu programme is given as a single spray squirted up each nostril and is needle free.

Attached via the link below is an electronic suite of information with easy read resources, which we hope you will use to assist people with learning disabilities in your care to have the flu vaccine this winter. This is updated regularly as new resources become available. If you are unable to access the information, please copy and paste the link below into an alternative web browser such as Google Chrome:

<https://drive.google.com/open?id=1WKQOStPBSN8GYRTi687Vc-dxBuVrkEHu>

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely,



Tricia Spedding
Head of Public Health