



Top Tips: COVID-19 and Adult Influenza Vaccination Service (2026/27)

What is it?

- Advanced Service running from 1 April 2026 to 31 March 2027.
- Pharmacies may provide **BOTH** COVID-19 and adult influenza vaccination services, or adult influenza vaccination only.

Note: There are associated PGDs, VGDs and Service Spec documents published for this service. Make sure you are familiar with and adhere to these!

Aims of service



Increasing vaccine uptake



Improving patient access



Supporting co-administration where appropriate

Key 2026/27 Changes

- COVID-19 vaccination is now commissioned as an **Advanced Service** and separate local commissioning arrangements have been removed.
- National Booking Service (**NBS**) is **mandatory for COVID-19** appointments.
- COVID-19 vaccine ordering is via the Federated Data Platform (FDP).
- 'Year Round Pathway Patient' replaces 'Newly Diagnosed Patient'.
- Housebound administration fee has been **removed**.
- From the 1st September 2026, RAVS (Record a Vaccination Service) must be used to record all NHS vaccinations.

Before You Start



- Register for the service before administering any vaccinations.
- Decide whether to provide COVID-19 and flu vaccination or flu vaccination only.
- Ensure SOPs cover cold chain, escalation routes, record keeping, training and signposting.
- Review indemnity insurance arrangements, particularly for off-site clinics.
- Ensure consultation facilities meet service requirements.

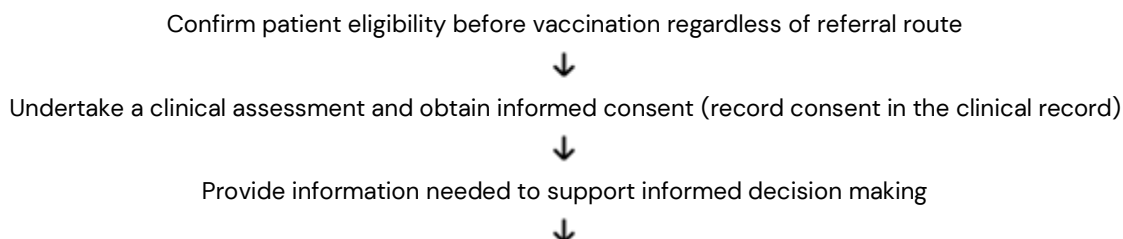
Registration Deadlines and Important Requirements

				
COVID-19 providers needed early registration to receive vaccine supply ahead of campaign starts.	From 1 April 2026 registration is via Manage Your Service (MYS).	Pharmacies must not vaccinate before registration, or payment may be withheld.	Contractors can register later in-year, but timely vaccine supply is not guaranteed.	Covid vaccine supply is not guaranteed!

Training and Workforce

- Vaccinators must meet National Minimum Standards and Core Curriculum for Vaccination Training.
- Complete relevant COVID-19 and influenza vaccination training.
- Annual training updates to be completed as required.
- Ensure competency in recognition and management of anaphylaxis.
- Retain evidence of competency (e.g. Declaration of Competence).
- Enhanced DBS checks are required for specified home visiting and under-18 COVID-19 vaccination activity.

Consultation Essentials



Supply or signpost to the manufacturer Patient Information Leaflet



Consider wider health promotion opportunities and vaccination signposting

National Booking Service (NBS) Top Tips

NBS is mandatory for COVID-19 vaccination appointments



Maintain accurate clinic availability and appointment information

At least 100 appointments should be listed in the first month of a COVID campaign and 50 per month thereafter

Failure to comply with NBS requirements may affect vaccine allocations and supply

Consider using NBS for flu appointments to maximise visibility and uptake

Vaccine Ordering, Storage and Stock Management

Stock	Storage
- COVID-19 vaccines are ordered through FDP. - Choose automatic replenishment or manual ordering following the initial order. - Maintain accurate NBS, Point of Care and FDP data. - Monitor wastage closely; persistent high wastage may result in reduced supply. - Order flu vaccines in line with the annual Flu Letter and Green Book recommendations. - Ensure adequate stock is available before campaign launch.	Maintain robust cold-chain procedures at all times.

Off-Site Vaccination Clinics

- Commissioner approval is required before delivering vaccinations away from the pharmacy.
- Off-site locations must be within the same NHS England region.
- The majority of vaccinations should still be delivered from the registered pharmacy.
- Ensure governance, indemnity, cold chain, confidentiality and waste disposal arrangements are in place.

Service Delivery and Access

- Offer co-administration of COVID-19 and flu vaccines where clinically appropriate.
- Provide appointments throughout opening hours where possible.
- Advertise walk-in clinics through NHS Pharmacy Services Finder.
- Ensure services are accessible and responsive to patient needs.
- Support patients with communication needs and barriers to access.

Record Keeping and Claims and Payments

Record keeping and Claims	Payment
 • From the 1st September 2026, RAVS (Record a Vaccination Service) must be used to record all NHS vaccinations. • Vaccinations should be recorded on the same day wherever possible. • Records entered more than 15 days after administration are not eligible for payment. • Ensure all mandatory patient and vaccine fields are completed. • Maintain robust access controls and user management processes.	 • Adult influenza vaccination fee: £10.06 per dose. • COVID-19 vaccination fee: £8.70 during flu season or £10.06 outside flu season.

Linking Other Pharmacy Services

Promote NHS and locally commissioned services where appropriate.

Identify eligible patients for other vaccinations.



Use vaccination consultations to support prevention and public health conversations.

Consider Pharmacy First, hypertension case-finding and smoking cessation signposting where relevant.



Increasing Service Provision

Top tip	How to
Make the service easy to access	• Provide appointments throughout opening hours where possible. • Advertise walk in clinics through NHS Pharmacy Services Finder. • Support patients with communication needs and other barriers to access.
Make the whole team service champions	• Use the whole pharmacy team to promote the service. • Ensure staff know who may be eligible and how to direct people into the service. • Include the service in routine conversations with appropriate patients.
Make the service visible	• Use posters and promotional materials. • Use pharmacy social media. • Ensure the NHS website profile is up to date.
Maximise NBS visibility	• Keep COVID-19 clinic availability accurate and up to date. • Consider using NBS for flu appointments to maximise visibility and uptake.
Offer vaccination whenever an opportunity arises	• Consider eligible patients referred through different routes. • Confirm eligibility and assess the patient promptly. • Use vaccination consultations to support wider prevention and public health conversations.
Offer co-administration where appropriate	• Offer COVID-19 and flu vaccination together where clinically appropriate. • Make patients aware that both vaccinations can be provided by the pharmacy where the service is offered.
Keep vaccines available and minimise wastage	• Ensure adequate stock is available before launch and during the service. • Maintain robust cold chain procedures. • Monitor wastage closely. • Keep NBS, Point of Care and FDP data accurate.
Support neighbourhood working	• Promote the service to wider stakeholders across the neighbourhood e.g. voluntary sector organisations to support communication on availability to eligible patients. • Link with other providers e.g. GP Practice to support vaccination uptake particularly to low uptake cohorts.
Celebrate and Share Success	• Share positive service figures with staff. • Recognise team members who actively promote the service. • Discuss service outcomes at team meetings.

References

- [1] NHS England. Community Pharmacy Advanced Service Specification: COVID-19 and Adult Influenza Vaccination Programmes 1 April 2026–31 March 2027 (Version 2.0).
- [2] Community Pharmacy Surrey & Sussex. Adult COVID-19 & Flu Vaccination Service – Key Specification Changes 2026/27.
- [3] Community Pharmacy England. Seasonal Vaccination Services: COVID-19 and Adult Flu.