

## SEASONAL FLU BRIEFING

Summary of the Department of Health and Social Care's immunisation policy for influenza

In August 2020, the [Department of Health and Social Care and Public Health England](#) issued the following statement:

“In light of the risk of flu and COVID-19 co-circulating this winter, the national flu immunisation programme will be absolutely essential to protecting vulnerable people and supporting the resilience of the health and care system.”

The statement cites guidance on immunisation of healthcare and laboratory workers under current Health and Safety at Work legislation:

“The objective of occupational immunisation of healthcare and laboratory staff is to protect workers at high risk of exposure and their families, to protect patients and other staff from exposure to infected workers, and to sustain the workforce

...

This includes staff who have regular clinical contact with patients and who are directly involved in patient care. This includes doctors, dentists, midwives and nurses, paramedics and ambulance drivers, occupational therapists, physiotherapists and radiographers. **Students and trainees in these disciplines and volunteers who are working with patients must also be included.**”

Students should contact their GP or their placement provider for guidance.

### NHS Advice

The latest NHS advice on how to look after yourself if you have/think you may have seasonal flu, and when to seek help, can be found at the following website address: -

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/flu/>