

## Executive Director of Public Health

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Date: 5<sup>th</sup> September 2023

Dear Domiciliary Care Mangers

### **Re: Flu and Covid-19 vaccinations – autumn 2023**

This autumn's flu and COVID-19 vaccine programmes will start earlier than planned as a precautionary measure following the identification of a new COVID-19 variant. (see separately attached letter from the Department of Health and Social Care).

While the new variant is not currently classified as a variant of concern, advice from the UKHSA suggests that speeding up the autumn vaccine programme will deliver greater protection, supporting residents who are at greatest risk of severe illness and reduce the number of staff from becoming unwell.

Carers, pregnant women, and health and social care staff will all be among the groups to be offered a covid jab this winter, as well as adults aged 65 and over.

From 18 September, the NHS will start to invite people in priority order of risk and those eligible will be able to book an appointment for a COVID-19 booster through the National Booking Service or by calling 119 from 18 September. Flu vaccinations are also available, and a letter of entitlement will be provided soon.

We strongly advise all staff to take up the offer of Covid and flu vaccinations this year in order to protect themselves and the vulnerable people they work with from these viruses and prevent them from having to take time off from work due to these illnesses.

Yours Sincerely

Geraldine Bruce, Head of Health Protection, Public Health  
Hertfordshire County Council