


# COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS Q & A TAKE-AWAY

1ST NOVEMBER 2021

## FLU VACCINES




**THERE HAS BEEN SOME CONFUSING MIXED MESSAGING AROUND FLU VACCINES AND WHETHER YOU SHOULD WAIT TO BE CONTACTED BY YOUR GP TO ACCESS THEM. AS CHAMPIONS WHAT SHOULD WE BE ADVISING PEOPLE?**

The process varies from surgery to surgery. The best thing to say to anyone who is worried is to check with their practice how they are running them. There are other ways to access them too, for example via pharmacies.



**IS THERE A SHORTAGE OF FLU VACCINES THIS YEAR?**

There may be some delays in stock of some vaccines at the moment which can have an effect so it's important to understand the situation for local practices and pharmacies.



**I WASN'T AWARE THAT THERE WAS MORE THAN ONE TYPE OF VACCINE OR THAT YOU COULD PAY FOR ONE IF YOU ARE NOT ENTITLED TO A FREE ONE. SOME PHARMACIES ARE SHORT ON STOCK, OTHERS SAY TO CHECK ONLINE, SOME SIMPLY SAY THE FLU VACCINE IS PAUSED.**

**HOW CAN I ENSURE I AM SHARING LOCALLY ACCURATE INFORMATION WHEN THE MESSAGING IS SO CONFUSING?**

There are actually 4 main flu vaccine types depending on a range of risk factors which some people will need to consider. The Vaccine Knowledge Project is great for really clear background information on vaccines.

## KEY TAKE AWAY

As champions, you will really struggle to cover all eventualities in your comms so the best thing is to encourage people to make their own enquiries with their GP practices and local pharmacies as they will then check they are getting the right vaccine for them.

[www.chc.vast.org.uk](http://www.chc.vast.org.uk)



@SoTHealthChamps