

CHESHIRE EAST HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

Reports Cover Sheet

Title of Report:	Update on 2022/3 influenza season
Report Reference Number	HWB 12
Date of meeting:	24 th January 2023
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Health & Wellbeing Board Lead:	Dr Matt Tyrer, Director of Public Health

Executive Summary

Is this report for:	Information <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Discussion <input type="checkbox"/>	Decision <input type="checkbox"/>
Why is the report being brought to the board?	Following the presentation of the <i>Annual Flu Report 2021/22</i> at the September 2022 Health and Wellbeing Board, the Board requested an update on the 2022-23 flu season in January 2023		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Strategy priorities this report relates to?	Creating a place that supports health and wellbeing for everyone living in Cheshire East <input type="checkbox"/> Improving the mental health and wellbeing of people living and working in Cheshire East <input type="checkbox"/> Enable more people to live well for longer <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>		
Please detail which, if any, of the Health & Wellbeing Principles this report relates to?	Equality and Fairness <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Accessibility <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integration <input type="checkbox"/> Quality <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Sustainability <input type="checkbox"/> Safeguarding <input type="checkbox"/> All of the above <input type="checkbox"/>		
Key Actions for the Health & Wellbeing Board to address. Please state recommendations for action.	The Board is asked only to note this update, mid-way through the 2022/23 flu season: - Summary of flu surveillance/prevalence to date - Summary of NHS-led vaccination programme - Outline of Cheshire East Council staff vaccination programme		
Has the report been considered at any other committee meeting of the Council/meeting of the CCG board/stakeholders?	Presented to: - CEC Adults, Health and Integration Directorate Management Team (DMT), 12 th December 2022 - CEC Corporate Leadership Team (CLT), 11 th January 2023		

Has public, service user, patient feedback/consultation informed the recommendations of this report?	N/A – for information only
If recommendations are adopted, how will residents benefit? Detail benefits and reasons why they will benefit.	N/A – for information only

1 Report Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update of the 2022/23 influenza season to date, including a summary of general flu epidemiology, the NHS-led vaccination programme and the Cheshire East Council staff vaccination programme.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 To note this update, mid-way through the 2022/23 flu season.

3 Reasons for Recommendations

- 3.1 Following the presentation of the Annual Flu Report 2021/22 at the September 2022 Health and Wellbeing Board, the Board requested an update on the 2022-23 flu season in January 2023.

4 Impact on Health and Wellbeing Strategy Priorities

- 4.1 Influenza vaccination links closely with outcome three of the Cheshire East Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (*Enable more people to live well for longer*), the commitment to take action across the life-course from childhood to older age, and a focus on prevention.

5 Background and Options

General flu epidemiology

- 5.1 Following two years of very low rates of flu and other respiratory viruses, this season flu levels appear to be back to pre-pandemic levels.
- 5.2 This re-emergence is likely due to (i) a relaxation in restrictions put in place to control COVID-19, such as isolation, social distancing and mask wearing, and (ii) reduced levels of population immunity due to lack of exposure to flu in the previous two years. Children under two years of age are unlikely to have ever been exposed to flu.
- 5.3 At the time of writing, flu epidemiology appears to reflect that observed in the southern hemisphere during their winter (our summer) 2022. Australia, for example, experienced a

rapid rise in flu cases, which started earlier in the season and reached record-high numbers. The majority of Australian cases were due to influenza A.

- 5.4 Data to date for the North West of England appears to mirror these patterns. Figure 1 highlights that we too are experiencing a rapid increase in cases, beginning earlier than previous years, and dominated by influenza A:

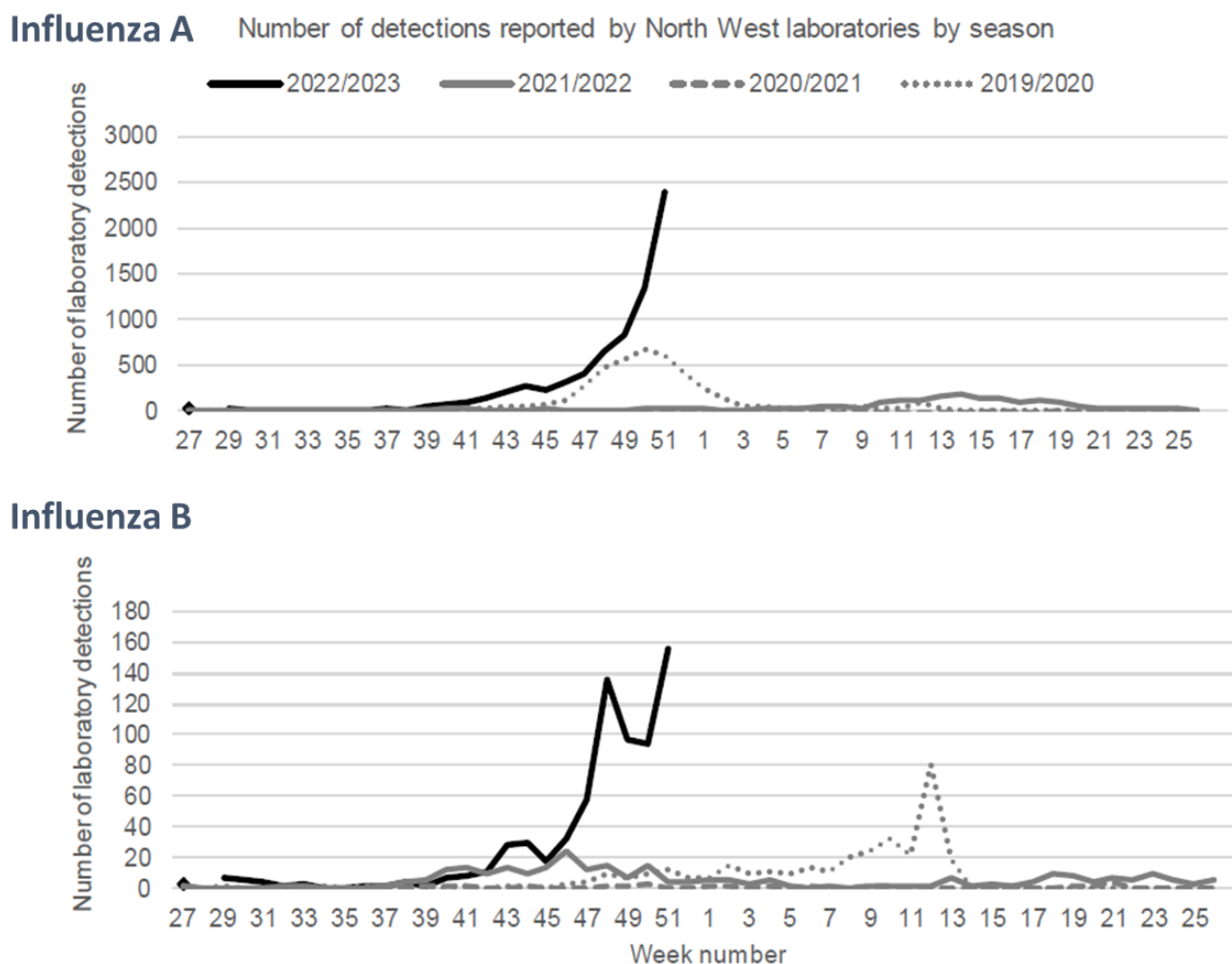


Figure 1 - Detection rates of influenza A and B (source: UKHSA North West Respiratory Report, 22nd December 2022. Data up to week 50 [week ending 18th December])

- 5.5 National reports indicate that as of week 22nd December 2022, influenza-like symptoms, influenza outbreaks, flu-related hospitalisations and emergency department attendances all continue to increase nationally¹, with activity considered medium intensity.

Local flu vaccination programme

- 5.6 According to unpublished, interim data from the National Immunisation Management System (NIMS), as of December 15th 2022 flu vaccine uptake in most age groups and pregnant women across Cheshire East is broadly similar to this time last year.

¹ UKHSA. [Weekly Flu and COVID-19 Report w51](#)

- 5.7 At the time of writing, the two defined groups in Cheshire East with significantly lower uptake than this time last year are 16-17-year-olds at increased risk, and NHS and social care staff. Nationally, uptake is lower in 2-3 year olds.
- 5.8 Cheshire East continues to have higher flu vaccine uptake compared to England and the North West Region as a whole. However, uptake by ward varies widely, with lower vaccination rates in more deprived wards, such as those in Crewe and Macclesfield.
- 5.9 NHS England has implemented a number of measures targeted at increasing uptake within and reducing inequalities between specific groups:

2 and 3 year olds

This cohort remains a key priority both nationally and in the NW. NW initiatives planned this season build on successful pilots in 21/22 and will target areas of low uptake and high deprivation. Initiatives include: GP endorsed letters including an easy read version and Urdu translated leaflet where appropriate; CHIS supporting invitations for GPs; GPs/PCNs vaccinating in nurseries; school age immunisation service (SAIS) providers vaccinating in nurseries attached to schools; key messages sent to 0-19 teams.

Learning Disabilities (LD)

Letter with resources sent to pharmacy colleagues to support flu vaccination in people with LD and to organisations that support people with a LD

Other Initiatives

- HIV test and treatment centres across C&M have been commissioned to provide opportunistic flu vaccinations for HIV patients under their care following successful pilot in Lancashire and South Cumbria last year
- Diabetic Eye Service Providers have been asked to signpost clients and provide a leaflet on flu as part of Making Every Contact Count following a notable reduction in uptake for this clinical risk group in 21/22
- Drug and alcohol service providers continue to be commissioned to deliver flu vaccinations to service users
- Additional data support has been commissioned to help target and evaluate initiatives for the 2–3-year-olds and LD cohorts and monitor uptake in the at-risk cohorts

Cheshire East Council – Staff programme

- 5.10 Five staff vaccination clinics were held across Council buildings between September and November:
- Macclesfield Town Hall – Friday 23rd September
 - Adults, Health and Integration Conference, Crewe – Thursday 29th September
 - Crewe Municipal Building – Friday 30th September
 - Westfields, Sandbach – Thursday 6th October
 - Westfields, Sandbach – Friday 4th November

All of these sessions were well attended, with a total of 492 vaccines administered.

- 5.11 Twenty-nine pharmacies across the borough have been accredited to provide Cheshire East employees access to their free flu vaccination, using their CEC ID badge as proof of eligibility. The pharmacies are well distributed geographically, in Crewe, Macclesfield, Congleton, Knutsford, Alsager, Wilmslow, Nantwich and Poynton.
- 5.12 A further 18 non-NHS eligible vaccinations have been administered through these pharmacies, bringing total vaccinations administered through the CEC-specific programme to date to 510. This will likely be an underestimate of pharmacy use, as any staff who attend a pharmacy are asked to complete a screening questionnaire; those over the age of 50 are then recorded as an NHS patient rather than as part of the CEC flu programme, and we do not receive confirmation of their vaccination.
- 5.13 As we did following the 2021/22 season, we will distribute a staff survey to gain a better understanding of how many staff overall received their flu vaccination from any source (NHS, CEC or private) this season.
- 5.14 Regular updates and prompts have been issued in Team Voice staff comms, as well as an updated Centranet page. Direct comms are shared with Care4CE staff via Care4CE senior managers to encourage colleagues working with our most vulnerable residents to get vaccinated.

6 Access to Information

- 6.1 The background papers relating to this report can be inspected by contacting the report writer:

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