

NHS Devon update – Devon Health and Wellbeing Board

March 2025

Seasonal vaccination update

The Autumn flu vaccination campaign started on 03 October 2024 and will run through to 31 March 2025 (maternity and children started from 01 September 2024). The Covid-19 vaccinations were available from the start of the campaign up to 31 January 2025.

The below table shows uptake for Seasonal Vaccinations and RSV as of 05 February 2025.

	Devon	Southwest	National
Flu	59.88%	59.14%	50.82%
Covid-19	55.01%	56.46%	44.39%
RSV (75-79s)	52.67%	52.78%	46.96%

The uptake for Covid-19 ranks Devon in 10th place compared to other ICBs in England. The ranking data for flu uptake is not available.

The current uptake across the country, including in Devon is lower than last year when end of campaign uptake was 75% for Flu and 62% for Covid-19. Whilst points of access and vaccination offers continue to increase in Devon, vaccine fatigue amongst the public is being seen across many vaccinations, including Flu and Covid-19.

Flu and Covid-19 vaccinations are provided at GPs, Community Pharmacies, at hospitals for inpatients and staff, at maternity units and maternity clinics in the community and via the Vaccination Outreach Service, who ran over 450 outreach clinics this Autumn 24 campaign to access underserved groups.

Following recommendations from the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI), Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccinations have been available since 1 September 2024 to provide protection to older people and infants.

RSV vaccinations are being offered to people when they turn 75. Up until 31 August 2025 a catch-up campaign is in place for 75-79 year olds. Current uptake levels for Devon are 52.67% and we expect this to increase as GPs increase capacity, as they step down Flu and Covid-19 clinics. RSV vaccinations are also offered to maternity patients when they reach 28 weeks' gestation as previously mentioned.

The Spring Covid-19 campaign will run from the 1 April 2025– 17 June 2025.

Big Brush club

The supervised toothbrushing scheme, known as the Big Brush Club, has been running in some areas of Devon, Plymouth and Torbay since 2023. However, the scheme, which is provided for 3-5 year old children in key stage 1, is now being rolled out to all primary schools in Devon who have an early years nursery, pre-school or reception class provision.

Devon is the first area in the south west to expand supervised toothbrushing to all primary schools.

It is funded by NHS Devon, in partnership with Devon County Council, Plymouth City Council and Torbay Council, and delivered by dental provider At Home Dental.

Under the scheme, teachers hold short, daily toothbrushing sessions for three- to five-year-olds alongside lessons about self-care, healthy eating and reducing sugar.

Devon 10-year plan programme

The Devon 10-Year plan engagement programme concluded on 28 February 2025.

The programme was a true piece of system working - co-designed with Healthwatch and delivered in collaboration with VCSE organisations, provider and local authority colleagues and other key system partners. The approach has resulted in a representative response from across the county which includes significant input from the Core20PLUS5 communities.

The engagement programme had various feedback methods to ensure it was accessible for all our people and communities in Devon. This included workshops, engagement postcards, surveys and a telephone line provided by Healthwatch where people could provide feedback over the phone if they weren't digitally enabled.

In total 3,400 pieces of individual feedback was received. This includes:

- 2,353 survey responses
- 358 people attended one of the 50 workshops that took place across Devon.
- 691 engagement postcards were completed

In addition to this, 219 people have been recruited for future engagement.

NHS Devon allocated funding to invest in Healthwatch Devon, Plymouth and Torbay and VCSE organisations. This widened the reach of the programme and made it accessible to those groups that are not always involved in engagement work like this.

This approach enabled us to hear from:

- People experiencing homelessness
- Learning disabilities
- Ethnically diverse communities
- Carers and older people
- People with a physical disability
- Digitally excluded
- Rural/coastal communities
- Children and young people
- Those experiencing social isolation

The joint approach provided a level of confidence and assurance of being heard through independent facilitation of workshops by Healthwatch Devon, Plymouth and Torbay.

The programme is seen regionally as an exemplar of best practice and will be used as a foundation for any future system involvement. The findings are currently being reviewed, these will be shared as part of a future Health and Wellbeing Board meeting once complete.

ENDS