

King's Mill Hospital
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Monday 17 November 2025

Dear all,

A message from the Trust's Executive Chief Nurse and Chief Medical Officer

We are writing to you personally to encourage you to get your flu vaccination if you haven't already. Our initial uptake this year was really good: we have now vaccinated 1,766 frontline staff (35.8%), but momentum has slowed over recent weeks, particularly in our Medicine and Urgent & Emergency Care divisions where exposure risk is likely highest.

Why this matters now

National data does show an earlier uptick in the rate of infection, particularly at this stage in children and young adults. The rise in infections has started about three weeks earlier this year. There is some evidence that the current vaccine used in the Northern Hemisphere matches less well to one of the Influenza A (H3N2) viruses. It's not clear to what extent vaccine effectiveness may be reduced, but we know that the vaccine will protect against severe disease.

Over the coming weeks, we will see more winter virus admissions. You may notice friends, family, or colleagues affected too, meaning more sickness absence and added pressure on our already-stretched teams.

Flu can be serious. It causes life-threatening illness even in previously healthy people. You may recall [Aaron's story](#). Aaron, who didn't have any significant underlying health problems, was treated on our critical care unit last December and developed multi-organ failure. Whilst he is making good progress, he has had a long and difficult recovery.

Protecting each other

While we fully respect your personal choice regarding vaccination, we strongly believe that, as healthcare professionals working with vulnerable patients, we have a clear responsibility to reduce transmission risk.

Getting vaccinated protects you, your household and the patients in our care who cannot protect themselves.

Home, Community, Hospital.

Getting your vaccination

To receive your vaccine, you can visit one of our drop-in vaccination clinics being held across the Trust on one of the following dates:

- Monday 17 November, 9.30am-11.30am in the KTC Walkway at King's Mill Hospital
- Wednesday 19 November, 9.30am-11.30am in the KTC Walkway at King's Mill Hospital
- Friday 21 November, drop-in 9am-12noon or 1-3pm in the Eastwood Centre at Newark Hospital
- Thursday 27 November, 9.30am-11.30am in the KTC Walkway at King's Mill Hospital
- Wednesday 3 December, 11am at the Doctors Induction in the Education Centre at King's Mill Hospital
- Thursday 4 December, 9.30am-11.30am in the KTC Walkway at King's Mill Hospital
- Friday 5 December, drop-in 9am-12noon or 1-3pm in the Eastwood Centre at Newark Hospital

Peer vaccinators will also be available within the Trust outside of normal working hours, including at evenings and weekends. This approach is designed to ensure that staff who have experienced difficulties in accessing vaccination opportunities are fully supported. By offering flexible sessions, we aim to capture anyone who may have missed previous appointments and provide convenient options to maximise your ability to access the vaccine.

In addition to peer vaccinators over the coming weeks, the Occupational Health team will be visiting areas to offer the vaccine to colleagues. Teams can also contact Occupational Health directly to arrange a time to visit – just e-mail sfh-tr.occupational.health@nhs.net or call extension 3780 to discuss. Colleagues can also book an appointment with Occupational Health or drop-in during opening hours to get vaccinated.

If you need any assistance arranging your vaccination or would like to discuss it beforehand, please speak to your line manager.

Thank you for everything you do, and for considering this as part of our collective winter plan to protect the health and well-being of our staff and patients.



Phil Bolton
Executive Chief Nurse



Dr Simon Roe
Chief Medical Officer

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