



**PWYLLGOR CYNLLUNIO POBL A SICRWYDD PERFFORMIAD  
PEOPLE PLANNING AND PERFORMANCE ASSURANCE COMMITTEE**

<b>DYDDIAD Y CYFARFOD: DATE OF MEETING:</b>	24 June 2021
<b>TEITL YR ADRODDIAD: TITLE OF REPORT:</b>	Influenza Season 2020/21: Impact, Vaccine Uptake and Emerging Priorities for the Forthcoming Season
<b>CYFARWYDDWR ARWEINIOL: LEAD DIRECTOR:</b>	Ros Jervis, Director of Public Health
<b>SWYDDOG ADRODD: REPORTING OFFICER:</b>	Jo McCarthy, Deputy Director of Public Health Lynne Edwards, Senior Immunisation Co-ordinator

**Pwrpas yr Adroddiad (dewiswch fel yn addas)**

**Purpose of the Report (select as appropriate)**

Er Sicrwydd/For Assurance

**ADRODDIAD SCAA**

**SBAR REPORT**

**Sefyllfa / Situation**

This report provides the People, Planning and Performance Assurance Committee (PPPAC) with an update on the influenza (flu) season for Hywel Dda University Health Board (HDdUHB) during 2020/21.

2020/21 was an extraordinary year for flu, both in terms of circulating virus and vaccination uptake. The COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent social distancing and infection control measures, together with unique pressures on the hospital and community teams, means that the 2020/21 flu season cannot be accurately compared to any flu season before, or likely after.

PPPAC is requested to review the 2020-21 flu vaccination uptake and gain assurance from initial plans in place for the 2021-22 season. In doing so, PPPAC is required to consider that progression of the COVID-19 vaccination roll out, and decisions on whether flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be given concurrently going forward, will hugely influence the programme over the coming season, and that as a result any preliminary plans may change accordingly.

**Cefndir / Background**

The HDdUHB Seasonal Influenza Plan for 2020-21 was developed following a three year improvement plan, implemented in 2017, 2018 and 2019, which steered the flu vaccination uptake to increase significantly across key 'at risk' populations in HDdUHB. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, HDdUHB transferred from the 'superprotectors' branding and 'Flu Free Hywel Dda' message in 2020/21 to focus on the requirement to protect individuals and their community against flu at a point where COVID-19 was circulating.

The principles of the HDdUHB Health and Wellbeing Framework continued to operate throughout plans in place, by recognising the need to shift the culture around vaccination, build on our assets, and promote community health and wellbeing. The core themes for the 2020/21 year's flu campaign were:

- Focussing on health as an asset. By using positive messages relating to protecting yourself and others during the pandemic, rather than focussing on messages regarding a requirement to receive the flu vaccination due to a chronic illness or age.
- Ensuring a joined up approach throughout the season, engaging early with General Practitioners (GPs), joining the staff campaign with the core public health flu campaign, and working as a single multi-disciplinary team to plan before the season and troubleshoot during it.
- Aligning messaging alongside the national 'Beat Flu' campaign.
- Ensuring sufficient attention was directed at the risk groups prioritised by Welsh Government (WG) for 2020/21.

2020/21 was a flu vaccination delivery season largely dictated by COVID-19, with innovative new delivery models required to ensure social distancing between patients, appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) for staff and delivery of more vaccinations than previously given the expanded definition of at risk groups.

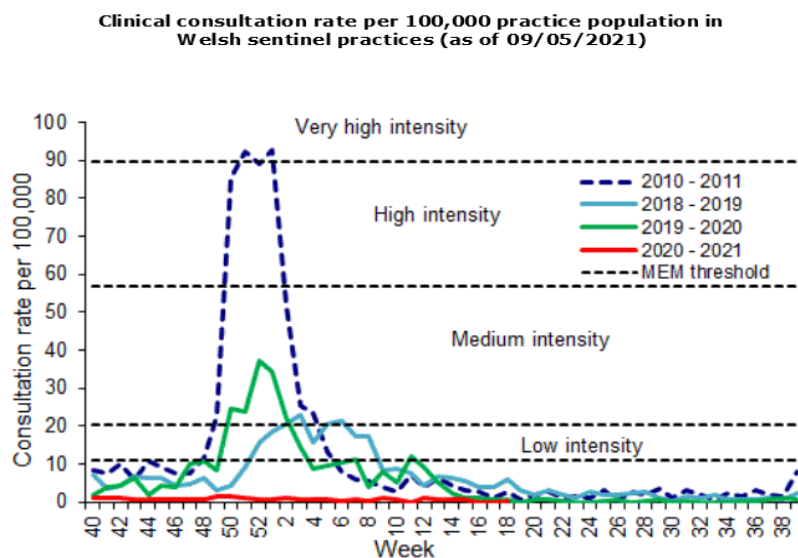
Changes in demand for flu vaccinations were observed, and many more people were eligible for a vaccination including all adults over 50 years of age and household members of anyone extremely vulnerable (those who had been advised to shield during the COVID-19 outbreak).

Plans for 2021/22 will be outlined in detail in this year's flu plan, which will be presented to HDdUHB Board in Autumn 2021.

## **Asesiad / Assessment**

### Overall assessment for 2020/21 flu season

Consultation rates for flu-like illnesses were at an all-time low in 2020/21, as Wales, the UK and the world as a whole saw the lowest levels of circulating flu in many years. This was largely attributed to lockdowns, social distancing, improved hand hygiene, use of PPE and the high circulating levels of COVID-19.



Source: Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme Influenza Surveillance, PHW

In the 2020/21 flu season, more flu vaccinations were administered in HDdUHB than ever before (n= 159,332 compared to 112,764 in 2019/20, 111,615 in 2018/19 and 104,052 in 2017/18) and the uptake percentage in several key groups was increased. This large increase in uptake can be partially attributed to the 29,915 individuals aged between 50-64 years of age immunised,

who were not previously eligible for immunisation. Excluding this new group, HDdUHB observed a significant rise in the total number of vaccinations administered for each at risk group.

A summary of flu vaccinations administered in each locality within HDdUHB indicates that Carmarthenshire achieved the highest uptake across HDdUHB for those aged 65+ and under 65's at risk vaccination (75.7% and 50.9% respectively) with Pembrokeshire only 2% behind for both categories. Uptake within Ceredigion was slightly lower at 69.8% for those aged 65+ and 48.7% for under 65's at risk. However, vaccination uptake in these at risk groups increased by over 10% in both at risk categories in Ceredigion compared with the uptake during 2019/20.

#### Summary by Health Board and Local Authority (23mar2021)

		Children 2 to 3 years			Clinical risk 6m to 64y			65y and older		
		Denominator	Immunised	Uptake (%)	Denominator	Immunised	Uptake (%)	Denominator	Immunised	Uptake (%)
Hywel Dda UHB	Carmarthenshire	3,582	2,129	59.4%	25,148	12,794	50.9%	42,840	32,432	75.7%
	Ceredigion	1,446	680	47.0%	10,937	5,326	48.7%	23,426	16,342	69.8%
	Pembrokeshire	2,267	1,209	53.3%	16,441	8,018	48.8%	31,187	22,974	73.7%
	HD Total	7,295	4,018	55.1%	52,526	26,138	49.8%	97,453	71,748	73.6%
Wales	Wales	66,234	37,270	56.3%	444,330	226,590	51.0%	681,255	521,082	76.5%

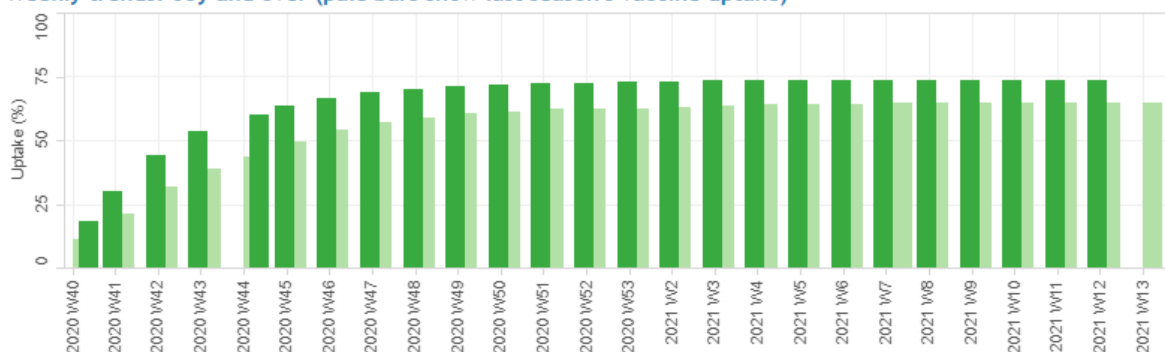
Source: Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme, PHW

#### Performance in 2020/21 and plans for 2021/22 regarding uptake for those aged 65 years and over

In the 2020/21 season, 71,748 vaccinations were given to people aged 65 years and over in HDdUHB, more than ever before in this cohort, and 9,129 more than 2019/20.

While contending with annual increases in denominator, uptake in the over 65 age group has remained relatively consistent (62.9% - 65.5%) between 2015 and 2020. However, in 2020/21 uptake across HDdUHB was 73.6%. This increase was in line with the increased uptake evidenced nationally. The national target for this age group is ordinarily 75%, a figure HDdUHB is now close to achieving.

Weekly trends: 65y and over (pale bars show last season's vaccine uptake)



Additionally, late in the season (December 2020) it was announced that everyone aged 50+ years of age was eligible for a flu vaccination. At this point during most years, the majority of vaccinations have been administered, and administering vaccinations to this group at a late stage, during a pandemic, was challenging. HDdUHB vaccinated 34.8% of this cohort, compared to an All-Wales uptake of 37.4%

#### Plan for 2021/22

- Continue to support access to vaccination via community pharmacy across the HDdUHB footprint.
- Explore further options for intergenerational approaches to flu vaccination at drive through clinics, working with primary care partners already engaged in this agenda.
- Continue to prioritise increased uptake in children in order to reduce transmission of influenza in the community and therefore offer indirect protection to older adults and other vulnerable groups.
- Work with colleagues across Wales to develop communication and information material for 50-64 year olds, ensuring that this new cohort are both aware of their new eligibility for flu vaccination, and the health benefits of being vaccinated.

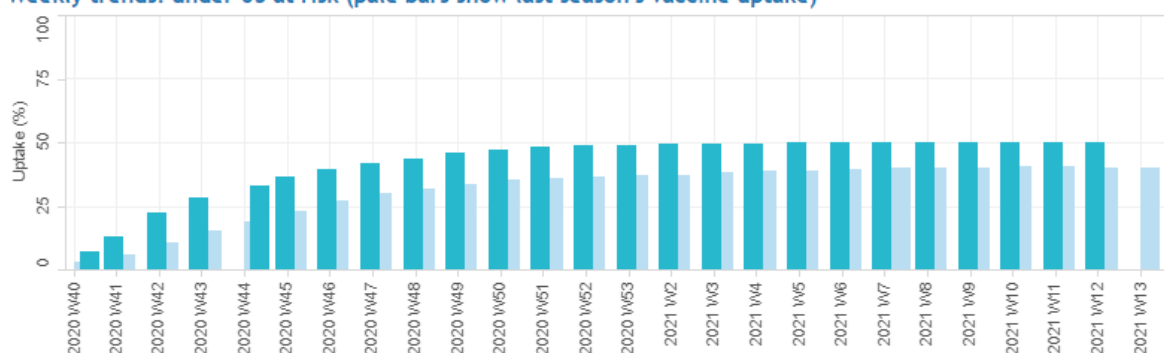
Performance in 2020/21 and plans for 2021/22 regarding uptake for those aged six months to 64 years in clinical risk groups

Over the past few years, a number of initiatives have been trialled in an attempt to increase uptake in those aged 6 months – 64 years at risk of flu. These include funding for call and recall schemes in Primary Care, funding and supporting a Vaccine Support Officer post, a focus on vaccination in community pharmacy and ongoing engagement with hospital and community based services to try to ‘make every contact count’ and immunise those in this group when they attend for appointments with healthcare professionals. 2020/21 was a year of new approaches, as many of the plans to opportunistically vaccinate at clinical appointments were scuppered as consultations moved online where possible. Call and recall also required additional consideration, and in some cases was not suitable, for example for groups who were shielding or particularly vulnerable and did not want to leave their homes even for a vaccination.

In 2020/21, Primary Care have gone above and beyond to vaccinate this group, offering, where possible drive through flu clinics and hiring additional community spaces where needed to offer safe vaccination clinics.

As with other groups, uptake in 2020/21 reached an all time high of 49.8% in HDdUHB, up 9.5% from 2019/20.

Weekly trends: under 65 at risk (pale bars show last season's vaccine uptake)



Plan for 2021/22

- Re-establish, when safe, opportunistic immunisations for eligible patients attending routine appointments at acute and community settings. This process is well established in Aberaeron and Cardigan and protocols can be adapted for additional sites.
- Continue to engage early with General Practice, including at Local Medical Committee (LMC) meetings, to ensure the challenges relating to immunising those with chronic conditions in 2021-22 are understood.

- Where possible, continue to identify funding to support primary care and community pharmacies where vaccination demand is unpredictable.
- Support will continue to be provided to community pharmacies to identify and respond to the challenges faced by pharmacies with regard to maintaining or exceeding last year's uptake in the context of possible ongoing social distancing and infection prevention and control measures.

Performance in 2020/21 and plans for 2021/22 regarding the uptake for health care workers providing direct patient care

Occupational Health records indicate that 6,653 individual staff members have received vaccinations during the 2020/21 flu season. This figure includes agency staff, bank staff, new starters, students and staff from other organisations (such as Public Health Wales (PHW)). In 2019/20, 5,864 flu vaccinations were administered to staff. The previous three flu seasons have seen more flu vaccinations administered to staff than any previous year.

Nationally, guidance on recording staff vaccination changed to an Electronic Staff Record (ESR) based system three years ago. This means that in previous years (prior to 2018/19), the total number of vaccinations given to staff 'in cohort' (all staff except those who work for the Local Authority or are agency staff) were included within the uptake figures. However, with the ESR linked system, only staff with HDdUHB ESR accounts are included. Therefore, there are exclusions within our reportable figures this year, including students, bank staff, new starters and staff who are linked to other organisations. The total reported vaccinations given, as shown in nationally generated data, were therefore significantly lower than the total vaccinations given at 5,676.

Uptake overall, including among frontline staff, was significantly higher than we have ever seen in HDdUHB, with all frontline staff areas achieving over 50% uptake. Additional work will be required in the forthcoming years to understand those barriers that continue to prevent a higher uptake among healthcare staff.

Staff Group	Yes	No	Grand Total	Yes
Add Prof Scientific and Technic*	227	158	385	58.96%
Additional Clinical Services*	1175	1087	2262	51.95%
Administrative and Clerical	1121	816	1937	57.87%
Allied Health Professionals*	422	237	659	64.04%
Estates and Ancillary	472	670	1142	41.33%
Healthcare Scientists	114	75	189	60.32%
Medical and Dental*	346	333	679	50.96%
Nursing and Midwifery Registered*	1791	1404	3195	56.06%
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>5676</b>	<b>4786</b>	<b>10462</b>	<b>54.25%</b>

\*denotes front line staff

Flu champions (peer vaccinators) administered 57% of staff vaccinations in 2020/21, a vast increase compared to previous years, highlighting the importance of recruitment and training of staff into flu champion roles.

Vaccinated by	Total number vaccinated 2018/19	Percentage of total vaccinated 2018/19	Total number vaccinated 2019/20	Percentage of total vaccinated 2019/20	Total number vaccinated 2020/21	Percentage of total vaccinated 2020/21
HDUHB Occ Health staff	2825	51%	3123	53%	2343	35%
Flu champions	2087	37%	2368	40%	3795	57%
GP	147	2.6%	200	3.4%	135	2%
Other (likely to include pharmacy)	87	1.6%	113	1.9%	230	3.4%
	5550		5864		6653	

### Plan for 2021/22

- To continue to work with team leads and current flu champions to identify and train additional champions across HDdUHB, promoting online 'Flu-2' training to minimise face to face training needs. To reflect the potential extension of the role of flu champions to include other vaccinations e.g. COVID-19, and adopt the term of peer vaccinators.
- To request ongoing Executive level enhanced support for staff flu vaccinations, including letters from the Directors of Nursing, Quality & Patient Experience; Public Health; Therapies and Health Science; and the Medical Director to encourage staff vaccination and support of peer vaccinator model, to ensure staff understand the flu campaign is endorsed by HDdUHB leaders.

### Performance in 2020/21 and plans for 2021/22 regarding uptake for pregnant women

The point of delivery survey undertaken annually by PHW across each Health Board area, suggested that 100% of pregnant women in HDdUHB were offered a flu vaccination during the 2019/20 season, and 84.4% received one (an increase from 49% in 2018/19). As yet, there is no point of delivery survey data available for 2020/21. The latest figures available from PHW suggest that in December 2020, HDdUHB had administered 750 vaccinations to pregnant women.

It is difficult to obtain an accurate uptake picture without a point of delivery survey, as some women fall into other 'at risk' categories or are included within the staff cohort. Many pregnant women may have chosen to minimise face-to-face contact with health professionals throughout the pandemic, thus having an effect on the uptake.

In 2019/20, HDdUHB became the second Health Board in Wales to trial midwifery-led influenza vaccinations for pregnant women; vaccinating pregnant women at hospital based antenatal clinics as well as in Primary Care settings. Community immunisers supported this work, which continued throughout the 2020/21 season where possible. Constraints on this service included an increase in telephone consultations, and therefore there were less opportunities to 'make every contact count' and immunise women during antenatal visits.

### Plan for 2021/22

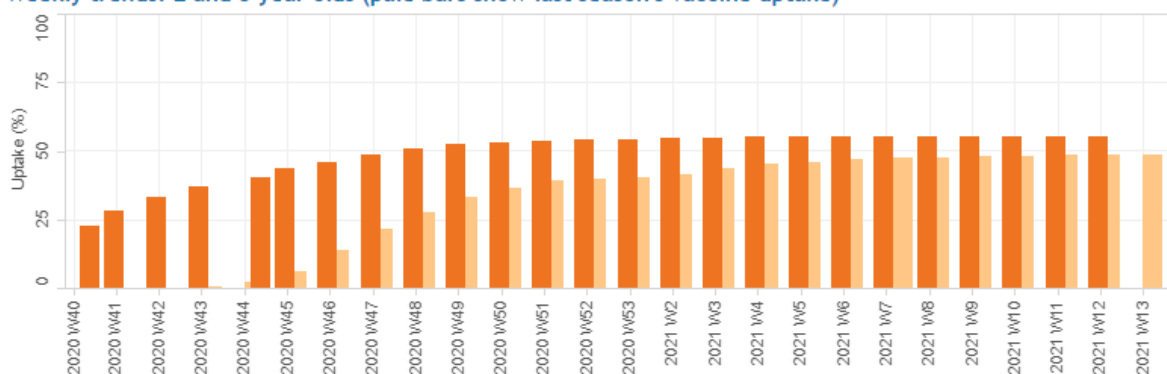
- Investigate recording of flu vaccinations to pregnant women and work with PHW, Primary Care and Midwifery colleagues to try to ensure accurate data collection.
- Continue to work in antenatal settings to vaccinate pregnant women where possible.
- Community immunisers to support Primary Care led drive through flu vaccination clinics, including vaccinating pregnant women as part of this initiative.

- As we enter flu season, midwives currently deployed to working within our COVID-19 vaccination programme, to take the opportunity to 'make every contact count' and discuss flu vaccinations with pregnant women when they attend their COVID-19 vaccination/boosters appointment (should the mass vaccination centre model continue).

### Performance in 2020/21 and plans for 2021/22 regarding uptake in 2-3 year olds and school age children

Following the closure of schools for parts of the 2020/21 planned vaccinating period due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and some school nurses redeployed to mass vaccination centres for COVID-19 vaccination delivery in the latter part of the flu season, the schools programme has been a substantial challenge during 2020/21. Despite this, the uptake in children aged 2-3 years increased by 6.6% (up to 55.1%) compared to 2019/20,

Weekly trends: 2 and 3 year olds (pale bars show last season's vaccine uptake)



Uptake in school-aged children (Reception class to Year 6) was 73.3% (an increase of 5% from the previous year), which is similar to the uptake during previous years, however the 2019/20 uptake was impacted upon by vaccination supply issues). 20,110 vaccinations were administered to this cohort, which is a considerable achievement given the difficult circumstances, with year groups sometimes isolating when immunisers are on site, children absent from school and the need to vaccinate children in 'bubbles'.

### Plan for 2021/22

- 2021/22 will continue to be an extremely challenging season for the schools programme, with the competing pressure of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and the potential expansion of the programme to secondary school aged children. Embracing this challenge, we are looking at new ways of working, ensuring both our school nursing and our wider expanded immunisation team are all able to administer the children's nasal flu vaccination, to ensure maximum flexibility and resilience in the system.

### Overall plan for 2021/22: Effective delivery of flu vaccination in a global pandemic

Whilst there are clear discrete pieces of work and methods for increasing flu vaccination uptake in each eligible group outlined above, the forthcoming Seasonal Influenza Plan is required to be set within the context of delivering a well-recognised annual population level health protection intervention in the recovery phase of a global pandemic. On this basis, it is more important than ever that there are effective plans in place for the 2021/22 flu season to not only improve overall respiratory health of the population of HDdUHB, but also to protect those at risk, prevent ill-health and minimise further impact on NHS and social care services. Although COVID-19 has provided

a crisis, it is also an opportunity to rethink the most appropriate models and methods of delivery of the seasonal flu vaccination programme.

The annual detailed flu plan for 2021/22 will be developed throughout June and July 2021 and will be presented to Public Board in September 2021.

**Argymhelliad / Recommendation**

PPPAC is required to:

- Take assurance from the flu vaccine uptake in the 2020/21 season and the progress outlined in the years prior to this, and review and take assurance from the initial plans for the upcoming flu season 2021/22.
- Note the possibility of significant changes to plans towards use of mass vaccination centres should co-administration of COVID-19 and flu vaccinations be approved.

<b>Amcanion: (rhaid cwblhau)</b> <b>Objectives: (must be completed)</b>	
Committee ToR Reference: Cyfeirnod Cylch Gorchwyl y Pwyllgor:	2.4 Provide assurance to the Board that all plans put forward for the approval of the Health Board for improving the local population's health and developing and delivering high-quality, safe and sustainable services to patients, and the implementation of change, are consistent with the Board's overall strategic direction and any requirements and standards set for NHS bodies in Wales.  2.7 Provide support to the Board in its role of scrutinising performance and assurance on overall performance and delivery against Health Board plans and objectives, including delivery of key targets, giving early warning on potential performance issues and making recommendations for action to continuously improve the performance of the organisation and, as required, focus in detail on specific issues where performance is showing deterioration or there are issues of concern.
Cyfeirnod Cofrestr Risg Datix a Sgôr Cyfredol: Datix Risk Register Reference and Score:	<b>CRR – Risk 543:</b>  There is a risk of the Health Board failing to deliver the Welsh Government Tier 1 targets for the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2021-22.  Risk location, Health Board wide. Score: TBC (pre pandemic 12, currently uptake is high and risk reduced).
Safon(au) Gofal ac Iechyd: Health and Care Standard(s):	1.1 Health Promotion, Protection and Improvement 2.1 Managing Risk and Promoting Health and Safety 2.4 Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) and Decontamination



Amcanion Strategol y BIP: UHB Strategic Objectives:	All Strategic Objectives are applicable
Amcanion Llesiant BIP: UHB Well-being Objectives: <a href="#">Hyperlink to HDdUHB Well-being Objectives Annual Report</a>	4. Improve Population Health through prevention and early intervention, supporting people to live happy and healthy lives

<b>Gwybodaeth Ychwanegol: Further Information:</b>	
Ar sail tystiolaeth: Evidence Base:	<p>NHS Wales Delivery Framework and Reporting Guidance 2019-2020 [Welsh Government/NHS Wales, 2019].</p> <p>Flu Fighters Healthcare Worker Vaccination: clinical evidence [Public Health England, 2015].</p> <p>Pockett RD, Watkins J, McEwan P, Meier G [2015] Burden of Illness in UK Subjects with Reported Respiratory Infections Vaccinated or Unvaccinated against Influenza: A Retrospective Observational Study. PLoS ONE 10(8): e0134928. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0134928.</p>
Rhestr Termiau: Glossary of Terms:	<p>Flu – Influenza</p> <p>GP – General Practitioner</p> <p>HDUHB – Hywel Dda University Health Board</p> <p>ILI – Influenza Like Illness</p> <p>UHB – University Health Board</p> <p>VPDP – Vaccine Preventable Disease Programme</p> <p>PHW – Public Health Wales</p> <p>DPH – Director of Public Health</p> <p>LMC – Local Medical Committee</p> <p>ESR – Electronic Staff Record</p> <p>VSO – Vaccine Support Officer</p> <p>GMS – General Medical Services</p>
Partïon / Pwyllgorau â ymgynhorwyd ymlaen llaw y Pwyllgor Cynllunio Pobl a Sicrwydd Perfformiad: Parties / Committees consulted prior to People Planning and Performance Assurance Committee:	HDdUHB Immunisation and Vaccination Programme Group.

<b>Effaith: (rhaid cwblhau) Impact: (must be completed)</b>	
<b>Ariannol / Gwerth am Arian: Financial / Service:</b>	Seasonal influenza vaccination is cost effective due to the reduction in mortality, morbidity and hospital admissions that accrue from its use.

	<p>In a study by Pockett et al 2015, patients who are high risk and vaccinated have a reduced risk of more than one GP visit with influenza like illness [ILI], compared with low risk and unvaccinated patients. High-risk individuals who were also vaccinated had a lower probability of ILI related hospitalisation than individuals who are high risk or vaccinated alone. Pockett et al, calculated that the cost of ILI-related GP visits and hospital admissions in the UK over the study period in low-risk vaccinated patients would be equivalent to over £168 million for GP visits and over £112 million for hospital admissions.</p> <p>Information received from the Service Costing section of HDdUHB suggests that costs per bed day for 2018/19 for a medical specialty were £416 and for a critical care bed were £1,720. Alongside these figures, a prescribed course of anti-virals for diagnosed cases of influenza would be £15.41. Therefore, the potential cost benefit from high vaccination uptake rates could be significant as the influenza season progresses.</p>
<p><b>Ansawdd / Gofal Claf: Quality / Patient Care:</b></p>	<p>Vaccination offers the most effective way of preventing influenza. By having the vaccination, patients and the general population are protecting themselves and their family.</p> <p>Patients in risk groups [<i>such as those with chronic conditions and the elderly</i>] are over 10 times more likely to die from influenza than the general population, and in some clinical groups are up to 70 times more likely to die from influenza [Public Health England, 2015].</p>
<p><b>Gweithlu: Workforce:</b></p>	<p>Evidence suggests that health care workers are more likely to contract influenza due to their occupation compared to the general population [Public Health England, 2015]. Health care workers who have received the vaccination will have some protection from circulating seasonal influenza strains.</p> <p>Training will be required to ensure that health care professionals use every opportunity to promote seasonal influenza vaccination to all at risk groups. Vaccinators will also require training in order to deliver the programme.</p>
<p><b>Risg: Risk:</b></p>	<p>There is a risk of HDdUHB failing to deliver the Welsh Government Tier 1 targets for the Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2021-22 (when/if set- awaiting information on this).</p> <p>This will lead to an impact/effect on mortality and morbidity and will increase pressure on planned and unplanned care services. Failure to improve overall respiratory health in the HDdUHB population.</p> <p><b>Mitigation Measures:</b></p>

	<p>Appropriate governance to provide leadership for effective planning and delivery during the flu season.</p> <p>Ensure requirements of the Welsh Health Circular 2021 (when released) - the National Influenza Programme 2020-21 are brought into planning.</p> <p>Weekly reports from PHW during flu season and these inform the Programme Group.</p> <p>Influenza plan developed with input from all relevant services led by the Programme Group.</p> <p>Communication campaign to be strengthened in 2021/22 to highlight any changes, particularly, the types of vaccines available. Communications strategy developed by Public Health Team working with HDdUHB Communications Team. Bespoke materials developed and disseminated with an enhanced focus on children and at risk groups.</p> <p>Collaborative work with PHW through fortnightly national teleconferencing during flu season.</p> <p>Integrated working of Immunisation Co-ordinator with GP practices.</p> <p>Specialist nurses and clinics established for at risk group vaccination.</p> <p>Partnership working with third sector and local authority colleagues to address issues relating to vulnerable groups within care homes, carers etc. has been improved.</p> <p>Review information system for staff immunisations to allow closer monitoring of uptake and follow up.</p>
<p><b>Cyfreithiol:</b> <b>Legal:</b></p>	<p>No issues noted</p>
<p><b>Enw Da:</b> <b>Reputational:</b></p>	<p>Failure to offer a coordinated population and staff immunisation campaign would adversely affect the reputation of HDdUHB.</p>
<p><b>Gyfrinachedd:</b> <b>Privacy:</b></p>	<p>No issues noted</p>
<p><b>Cydraddoldeb:</b> <b>Equality:</b></p>	<p>Full EqIA has not been completed at this time</p>