

**From:** Chief Officer

**Sent:** 23 January 2026 11:36

**To:** Chief Officer <[chiefofficer@leics-lpc.co.uk](mailto:chiefofficer@leics-lpc.co.uk)>

**Subject:** FW: New joint COVID-19 & adult flu vaccination service specification – key points for pharmacy teams

**Importance:** High

## **FAO: ALL LLR Pharmacy Teams**

A [new joint service specification for COVID-19 and adult influenza vaccinations](#) has now been published, setting out how both services will operate in community pharmacy for the 2026/27 season.

The key points for pharmacy owners and teams are outlined below.

### **Key updates**

- COVID-19 vaccinations will become an Advanced service from 1 April 2026.
- Pharmacy owners will be able to choose to:
  - offer both COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations, or
  - offer adult flu vaccinations only.
- Fees for both COVID-19 and adult flu vaccinations have been uplifted, however the additional fee for housebound patients has been removed.
- Use of the National Booking Service (NBS) will be mandatory for COVID-19 vaccinations but remains optional for adult flu.

Registration for Spring 2026 COVID-19 campaign

- Registration for the Spring COVID-19 campaign opens from 5 January 2026.
- **Pharmacy owners must register by 2 February 2026** to guarantee vaccine supply in time for the start of the Spring season.

This new specification brings both vaccination services together under a single framework and introduces important operational and registration requirements that pharmacy teams should begin planning for now.

### **Funding changes**

- The adult flu item of service fee will increase from £9.58 to £10.06 in 2026/27. This aligns the pharmacy fee with GP arrangements and follows sustained lobbying by Community Pharmacy England.
- COVID-19 vaccination item of service fees will be:
  - £8.70 per vaccine administered between 1 September 2026 and 31 January 2027 (during the flu campaign period), and
  - £10.06 per vaccine administered outside the flu campaign period.
- The additional £10 payment for vaccinating housebound patients with COVID-19 vaccines will be removed.

### **Changes to service requirements**

- From April 2026, COVID-19 vaccinations will be commissioned as an Advanced service.
- As now, pharmacy owners wishing to provide COVID-19 vaccinations will also be required to provide the Adult Flu Vaccination Service.
- Previous COVID-specific provisions relating to surge activity, pausing of services, and site designation have been removed to align more closely with flu service arrangements.

- Use of the National Booking Service (NBS) remains mandatory for COVID-19 vaccinations.  
Pharmacy owners are strongly encouraged to use NBS for adult flu and co-administered vaccinations.
- Training requirements now explicitly include completion of e-learning for healthcare modules on:
  - COVID-19 vaccinations, and
  - flu vaccinations.  
(Staff in pharmacies offering flu vaccination only do not need to complete the COVID-19 module.)
- Pharmacy owners must seek commissioner agreement if they wish to provide COVID-19 and/or flu vaccinations away from the pharmacy premises.

### **Vaccinating specific patient groups**

Commissioners may ask pharmacy owners to vaccinate:

- housebound patients (COVID-19 and/or flu),
- care home residents (COVID-19 and/or flu),
- patients under 18 years old (COVID-19 only, with appropriate enhanced DBS checks),  
and
- severely immunosuppressed patients outside active COVID-19 campaign periods.

Pharmacy owners are not required to agree to provide these vaccinations. Commissioner approval must be in place before vaccinating these groups.

### **Registration reminder**

- Pharmacy owners must now complete formal service registration for both the COVID-19 and adult flu vaccination services, in line with other Advanced services.
- No payment will be made for vaccines administered before registration is completed.

We would encourage all contractors and teams to familiarise themselves with the specification and the key dates to ensure timely registration and service readiness.

Further guidance and support will be shared as it becomes available.

[Community Pharmacy Leicestershire and Rutland – Community Pharmacy Leicestershire and Rutland](#)  
[C-19 & Adult Flu vac: joint 2026/27 service spec published, with fee uplifts from April 2026 - Community Pharmacy England](#)

Kind Regards  
 Rajshri Owen MRPharmS  
 Chief Officer