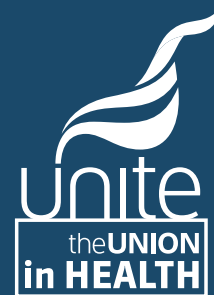


Unite in Health Seasonal Influenza Vaccination statement

Autumn 2020



The health sector of Unite the union is supportive of the seasonal flu vaccination campaign. The flu vaccine is an effective defence against the complications of the influenza virus and along with other prevention strategies has a role in greatly reducing the reach and spread of flu. Consequently, Unite in health strongly recommends the voluntary uptake of the vaccine for all health and social care workers unless their individual circumstances dictate otherwise.

In taking advantage of the flu vaccination not only will individual health and care workers protect themselves but they will assist in reducing the spread of the virus to their patients, clients, peers and the community in which they live. The need to do this is even greater now to assist infection prevention due to the real and present threat that the Covid-19 virus continues to pose to the country and the health and social care system.

Unite in health categorically does not support compulsory flu vaccination and will challenge any employer who attempts to insert a compulsory vaccination clause into an employees' contract of employment.

The professional associations within the health sector of Unite have always actively supported the voluntary immunisation programmes that exist throughout the United Kingdom, the Republic of Ireland and territories where the union operates. Allied with the robust public health infection control measures that we are all now very accustomed to.

Unite in Health encourages its membership to receive this year's flu vaccine, to help beat winter flu.