



To: All Practice Managers and Pharmacy Managers in Somerset – Sent August 20<sup>th</sup> 2018

Dear Primary Care Colleagues

We are writing jointly to inform you that Somerset LMCs and LPC have decided to collaborate in promoting this year's flu immunisation campaign. We will be using social- and local news- media in supporting the CCG and contractors to promote vaccine uptake.

We realise that given current financial constraints practices and pharmacies are increasingly reliant on the income generated by the flu immunisation programme. We recommend that both vaccination rates and care can be optimised with a spirit of collaboration rather than competition. The importance of practical and pragmatic planning and working together has never been greater.

Flu immunisation uptake in Somerset for 2017/18 was 72.8 % for over-65s and only 48.1% for under -65s in the at risk groups: both are below the national targets. This shows that there is still a great opportunity for everyone to **increase the overall number** of flu vaccinations delivered.

This year we are faced with using two different types of vaccine for adults, depending on age, and a difference in the way vaccines will be supplied. There have been national assurances that there will be adequate supplies of the new adjuvanted Trivalent vaccine and that deliveries to practices and pharmacies will be equitable but in a staggered time-scale across September, October and November.

This will undoubtedly add to the logistical burden for all parties administering the vaccine and we feel that it is in everyone's interest to have a joint approach in promoting the new vaccine and encouraging a generally increased uptake.

By increasing immunisation uptake across the board we can ensure that more vulnerable people in Somerset are protected against influenza at the same time as protecting a vital income stream for both practices and pharmacies.

The LMC and LPC will be working in partnership to support care collaboration between all primary care contractors. If you have any queries or questions regarding flu this coming season please do contact your LMC or LPC leadership body for advice.

Signed by

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Nick Bray'.

**Dr Nick Bray**  
Chairman, Somerset LMC

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Michael Lennox'.

**Michael Lennox**  
CEO, Somerset LPC