

C. difficile surveillance

Quarterly report

July - September 2024

Key points

- Rates presented throughout this report have now changed to per 100,000 occupied bed days to align with the Targets.
- CDI reports for hospital inpatients aged 2 100,000 years and over decreased by 3% (from 100 to 97 episodes) during July-September 2024 compared to April-June 2024.
- CDI rate per 100,000 bed days increased by 3.1% during July-September 2024 compared to April-June 2024.
- CDI reports for community patients aged 2 years and over increased by 28% (from 78 to 100 episodes) during July-September 2024 compared to April-June 2024.
- CDI reports for hospital inpatients aged 2 years and over increased by 2% between the 2022/23 and 2023/24 financial years.
- Please note: Bed day data were not available for BHSC and SHSC hospitals and provisional figures were used this quarter (figures taken from Jul-Sep 2023).

For further information or clarification on HCAI definitions, please refer to previous reports or contact hcaih@hscni.net

Protect your baby in their first few months

- Check **today** if you can get your pertussis (whooping cough) and RSV vaccines

- Speak to your midwife or nurse now



For further information scan the QR code or visit
www.pha.site/antenatal-schedule



If you are receiving chemotherapy or steroids, your immune system may be slightly weaker than usual. This may make it harder for your body to fight off infections. Make sure you are up to date with all the vaccines you are eligible for to help protect yourself against preventable infectious diseases.

Flu, COVID-19 and pneumococcal (PPV) vaccines

You are eligible to receive vaccination against

- seasonal flu
- COVID-19
- pneumococcal infection.



This is because these infections can be a major cause of harm to people with weakened immune systems. Evidence also suggests that getting the flu and COVID-19 viruses at the same time is associated with increased severity of disease compared to those with COVID-19 alone. It is therefore more important than ever to ensure best protection from both infections.

Contact your GP and arrange to have these vaccinations as early as possible. The vaccines cannot cause infection.

This year the flu vaccine will also be available for household contacts of anyone who is immunocompromised. Your household contacts should ask for the vaccine from their GP.

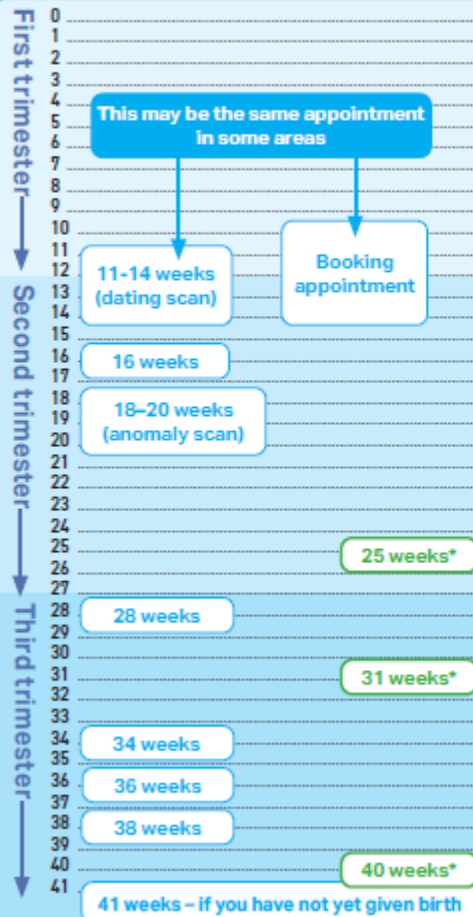
- Your vaccines should be given in the week before your next dose of chemotherapy.
- Patients with aplastic anaemia (a rare blood disorder) should not be vaccinated unless recommended by your haematologist.
- Children and young people with a weakened immune system should not receive the nasal vaccine for the flu. You will be offered an alternative vaccine that does not contain the live virus.

A guide to v for pregnant



Antenatal appointments

Recommended vaccinations




*Additional appointments for first pregnancy only

Whooping cough (pertussis) vaccination (16-32 weeks)

This vaccine will help protect your unborn baby until they can be vaccinated at 2 months.

pha.site/whooping-cough



Respiratory Syncytial Virus (RSV) vaccination (28 weeks to birth) **

To give protection to your unborn baby this is recommended ideally at 28 weeks **


pha.site/RSV-pregnancy



Influenza vaccination (throughout pregnancy)

The flu vaccine becomes available around **early October** and if you are pregnant you should get vaccinated so that you and your baby are protected. If your pregnancy spans across two winters, it is important to come for revaccination as the flu vaccine is specific to the strains circulating each season.


pha.site/flu-pregnancy-leaflet



COVID-19 vaccination (throughout pregnancy)

Those who are pregnant may also be eligible for COVID-19 vaccination during specific campaign periods. The COVID-19 vaccine is strongly recommended for pregnant and breastfeeding women by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives. These vaccines are the safest and most effective way to protect you and your baby.

pha.site/covid-19-autumn-booster



Test kit instructions

something to catch your poo
such as an old, clean container

test kit
(enclosed)

pen

or toilet paper.

Very Important

Check that your printed details on the test are correct. Write the date you take the sample on the test kit or we may not be able to test it.

1



2



Put a container or toilet paper into the toilet to catch your poo. Don't let the poo touch the sides of the toilet or the water.

3



Unscrew the lid of the tube to remove the stick.

4



Dip the end of the stick into your poo. Only fill the two small grooves at the end - do not overfill.

5



Place the stick back in the tube. Close the tube by screwing the lid back on.

6



If you used a container, put it in a plastic bag and dispose of it in an outside bin. Remember to wash your hands.

7



Once completed, put the test kit in the padded envelope provided, seal the envelope and post it as soon as possible.

Free Helpline: 0800 015 2514

(Relay UK 18001 0800 015 2514 for those who are deaf or speech impaired)

Please contact the helpline if you have any questions, or if you need a replacement test kit or envelope. Please do not contact your GP practice for a replacement test kit or to return your screening test, as they cannot provide or accept these tests.

For this leaflet in another language or format please visit pha.site/bowel-screening-test-kit-instructions

Adapted with permission from Bowel Screening NHS.uk. Public Health Wales, who developed the original version.



HSC Public Health Agency

Public Health Agency
1542 Llandudno Street, Belfast BT12 6PL
Tel: 0300 015 2514 Email: enquiries@hsc.nhs.uk
www.hsc.nhs.uk

Find us on:



02/14



Stay well this winter



Surveillance of Antimicrobial Use and Resistance in Northern Ireland

Taking ANTIBIOTICS when you don't need them puts you and your family at risk



Taking antibiotics encourages harmful bacteria that live inside you to become resistant. That means that antibiotics may not work when you really need them. This puts you and your family at risk of a more severe or longer illness.

Take your doctor or nurse's advice when it comes to antibiotics.

Keep  Antibiotics Working



Public Health Agency

Pagination

- Page 1
- [Next page >>](#)

[View PDF](#)