

Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP  
Secretary of State  
Department of Health and Social Care  
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Please reply to: Cllr Nesil Caliskan  
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Date: 14<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Mr Hancock

**Re: Winter flu vaccination programme 2020 – 2021**

I welcome NHS England's decision to expand the eligibility criteria for this year's flu vaccination programme. This is an important move to help protect both our communities and our health and social care sector during a winter season that is likely to be more challenging because of Covid-19.

Within the London Borough of Enfield health and social care system there are considerable efforts taking place this year to maximise the numbers of residents who receive the flu vaccination and I have personally written to all households encouraging uptake of the vaccine.

It is disappointing that in recent years uptake by residents has been hampered and delayed by numerous delays in the supply of the vaccine. The London Borough of Enfield normally has a lower uptake of the winter flu vaccine.

Given the challenges of previous years, this week I have written to North Central London CCG to ask them to confirm that there has been an increase in the number of winter flu vaccines compared to last year in order for Enfield to meet an increase of uptake. It is critical that all Enfield residents who are eligible for the flu vaccine will be able to receive it this year in time for them to be protected over the winter flu season.

Given the urgency of the situation and the catastrophic potential of a conflation of both winter flu and the Covid-19 virus, something that the Academy of Medical Sciences has estimated could result in 120,000 deaths, I would like assurance that the UK Government is working to secure an appropriate supply of vaccine for all eligible groups across the UK and how the supply will be maintained throughout this winter season. Specifically, I would like to know:

- The actions that the Government is taking to ensure and maintain an adequate supply of vaccine for all eligible population groups
- The actions that the Government is taking to promote and enhance access to vaccine
- Any delays you may be aware of in the manufacture or delivery of vaccine
- Any concerns you may have in regard to the capacity of the NHS or its partners for the delivery of this year's programme

I look forward to your response.

Yours sincerely



**Cllr Nesil Caliskan**  
Leader of the Council