Oxford-Royal College of General Practitioners Research and Surveillance Centre

Pre and Post Influenza Vaccine Serology

Patient Participation Guide

Your GP practice is part of the Oxford-RCGP RSC network and is one of the selected practices taking part in this project during the 2026–27 flu season.

What is the Oxford-RCGP RSC?

The Oxford-RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC) is a University of Oxford-based group that oversees a network of general practices that share infectious disease data. Sharing this data plays an important role in monitoring and responding to infectious diseases and may also support health research.

What is this project?

Every year, flu vaccines are updated to protect against the flu strains expected to cause illness the next winter. By comparing blood samples taken from the same person before and after their flu vaccination, we can better understand how people respond to this season's vaccines.

Last season (2025/26), serological studies provided important evidence that flu vaccines offered more protection against a flu strain known as subclade K than initially predicted. Your participation will help support this important public health monitoring.

What would I need to do?

If you are aged 6 months to 64 years old and are having your flu vaccination this year, you may be eligible to take part. You will be asked to provide *two small blood samples*: one before your flu vaccination and a second 3–6 weeks afterwards. Both samples will be taken at your GP practice.

Do I have to take part?

Taking part is completely voluntary and is your choice.
Choosing not to participate will not affect your healthcare or the care you receive from your GP practice. For children and young people under 18, a parent or carer will be asked to provide verbal consent.

As a thank you for your time and contribution, you will receive a *£20 voucher* after providing both blood samples.

What happens to my sample and information?

Your blood samples and information collected as part of this project will contribute to the existing Oxford-RCGP Research and Surveillance Centre (RSC) surveillance programme, which supports public health monitoring by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA).

Your information will be handled securely and confidentially. For more information about how your blood samples and information will be used, please read the Patient Information Sheet.

Interested in taking part?

Please speak to your GP practice team if you would like to participate or have any questions about providing your blood samples. Your practice can also provide you with the Patient Information Sheet.