



Influenza & COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake among Residents in Long-Term/Residential

Care Facilities in Ireland

Point Prevalence study-2024-2025 Winter Season-Survey Protocol

Revision History

Version	Date	Originator	Reviewer	Comment
1.0	02/11/2017	HPSC/NIO/National Hospitals Office /Faculty of Occupational Medicine	HPSC	
1.1	01/10/2018		HPSC	Update on previously circulated protocol and specifics relating to 2018-2019 season data collection
1.2	02/10/2019		HPSC	Update on previously circulated protocol and specifics relating to 2019-2020 season data collection, appendix of survey itself dropped
1.3	08/10/2020		HPSC	Update on previously circulated protocol and specifics relating to 2020-2021 season data collection
1.4	05/11/2021		HPSC	Update on previously circulated protocol and specifics relating to 2021-2022 season data collection and a transition from the demographix.com platform to Qualtrics
1.5	19/10/2022		HPSC	Update on previously circulated protocol and specifics relating to 2022-2023 season, reflecting the fact that data providers will have to acquire access to the IIS/COVAX flu dashboard to obtain their vaccinated staff numbers
1.6	22/10/2023		HPSC	Update on previously circulated protocol and specifics relating to 2023-2024 season, reflecting the fact that data providers will have to acquire access to the IIS/COVAX flu dashboard to obtain their vaccinated staff numbers
1.7	31/07/2024		HPSC	Update on previously circulated protocol and specifics relating to 2024-2025 season, reflecting the fact that data providers will have to acquire access to the IIS/COVAX flu and COVID-19 dashboards to obtain their vaccinated staff numbers

Contents

LIST OF ACRONYMS 3

INTRODUCTION..... 4

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION 4

1. THE INFLUENZA & COVID_19 VACCINE UPTAKE IN RESIDENTS POINT PREVALENCE SURVEY: PLANNING..... 5

 1.1. When should the survey be carried out? 5

 1.2 How should we prepare for survey in our facility? 5

 1.3 Confidentiality & ethical considerations 6

 1.4 What information will be collected during the survey?..... 6

 1.5 Which residents should be included in the survey? 6

LIST OF ACRONYMS

HCW	Health Care Worker
HPSC	Health Protection Surveillance Centre
HSE	Health Service Executive
LTCF	Long-Term/Residential Care Facility
RCPI	Royal College of Physicians of Ireland

INTRODUCTION

Since the 2011-2012 winter season, HPSC has been collecting data from long term/residential care facilities (LTCFs) on influenza vaccination among staff and residents. However, collection of data on residents is particularly challenging and time consuming for staff tasked with this duty. HPSC was asked in 2017 to review methodology used to collect uptake data for residents to make data collection easier.

Following consultation with a number of staff in LTCFs at the end of the 2016-2017 season it was agreed that for subsequent influenza season influenza vaccine uptake among residents (long term and short term, respite care patients) will be collected using a point prevalence methodology (described in in section 1). Anecdotal reports from data providers have indicated that this new method is far easier for staff to provide these data to the HPSC. Instead of conducting two-point prevalence surveys over the course of the flu season in November and February as was the case in 2017-2018, it is proposed that it should be conducted at the end of January 2019 only for the 2018-2019 season. This arrangement was maintained for the 2019-2020, 2020-2021, 2021-2022, 2022-2023 and 2023-2024 seasons and is to be continued for the 2024-2025 season.

One key change however, is that for the 2024/2025 season and for first time, the point prevalence survey will now include questions on the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccines. These will be identical to the questions on influenza vaccine uptake among long term and respite residents.

The data provided by the LTCFs will be collated by HPSC and reported to all data providers and the HSE and then made available on the HPSC website. These data are used to monitor uptake and progress of vaccine uptake in residents in the LTCFs.

We would like to acknowledge the enormous volume of work done in recent years among staff across the HSE and in the long term/residential care facilities in improving and reporting on vaccine uptake among both residents and staff in LTCFs.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Information on vaccination uptake among residents in LTCFs in Ireland for previous seasons may be found on the HPSC website at the following link:

<https://www.hpsc.ie/a-z/respiratory/influenza/seasonalinfluenza/vaccination/vaccineuptakeinhcwsandresidentsof>

[tcfs/](#)

For this survey we are using similar methodology used for the HALT study, which many LTCFs are already familiar with. We wish to acknowledge the work of the HALT team.

If you need additional information, please contact the HPSC via e-mail at: piaras.olorcain@hpsc.ie with the subject heading “**Vaccine uptake in residents in LTCFs**”.

1. THE INFLUENZA & COVID_19 VACCINE UPTAKE IN RESIDENTS POINT PREVALENCE SURVEY: PLANNING

1.1. When should the survey be carried out?

The survey should be carried out in your LTCF once during the winter seasons **DURING THE SECOND FULL WEEK OF DECEMBER 2024, IDEALLY BETWEEN 9th AND 13th OF THAT MONTH.**

This survey is a point prevalence survey: This means that all the data should be collected in a single day in each unit (e.g., all data for Unit A should be collected in the same working day). If completion of the full survey over one day is not practical in larger LTCFs, make a plan to divide the LTCF into separate wards/units and collect the data over two or three consecutive days. **It is very important that the data on a particular ward/unit is collected on the same day.** Each facility selects the day(s) to undertake the survey. However, it is important to factor in that the **DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE RESULTS TO HPSC ONLINE IS FRIDAY, 10th JANUARY 2025** and time is required to input results into the software after completing the data collection.

1.2 How should we prepare for survey in our facility?

- Designate a staff member (nominated contact), who will be in charge of the survey locally and act as a nominated contact person for any communications with the vaccine monitoring group at HPSC.
- For larger LTCFs you may wish to nominate a person from each unit to collect the data on their unit and then give to the nominated contact who will collate all the data from each unit to send to HPSC.
- To help you prepare for the data collection we have developed a short template identifying the data that is required for the survey.
- HPSC may send a reminder to the nominated contact point one week before the start of the PPS (2nd December 2024).

1.3 Confidentiality & ethical considerations

- The data collected for this survey is aggregate data only. No residents or patients are identified.
- Ethical approval is not required for a LTCF to participate in the vaccine uptake survey.

1.4 What information will be collected during the survey?

- The 2024-2025 questionnaires/data collection should be uploaded on to an online survey form, the link to which will be distributed by email to known LTFC contact points.
- This email may also have attached to it a pdf version of the survey form, a copy of which can be printed off for collecting data offline, data that can then be entered later online

Data variables collected

The data collected includes the following aggregate anonymous data:

- **Maximum bed capacity and type of facility**
- **Number of long-term residents/patients who are resident on the day of the survey**
- **The number of long-term residents who have been vaccinated since the beginning of the winter season (vaccinated since September 2024)**
- **The number of respite/short term care residents who are resident on the day of the survey**
- **The number of respite residents who have been vaccinated since the beginning of the winter season (vaccinated since September /October2024)**
- **Details of the numbers of vaccinated non-HCWs (i.e., residents) may be obtained from the IIS/COVAX flu and COVID-19 vaccination dashboards**

1.5 Which residents should be included in the survey?

1.5.1. Included & excluded residents

Residents are categorised into either “long term care residents” or “respite or short-term care” residents.

A long-term care resident should be included in the survey if he or she is:

1. living full-time* in the LTCF

AND

2. present at 08:00AM on the morning of the survey date for that ward/unit

AND

3. not discharged from the LTCF at the time of the survey

*For the purposes of the survey, 'living full-time' simply means that the LTCF is the resident's current place of residence, where overnight accommodation is provided for the resident. The duration of residence/length-of-stay should not be a factor in deciding whether or not the resident lives full-time in the LTCF.

A respite or short-term care resident should be included in the survey if he or she is:

1. resident in the LTCF for a pre-agreed time limited period (respite stay)

AND

2. present at 08:00AM on the morning of the survey date for that ward/unit

AND

1. not discharged from the LTCF at the time of the survey

A resident should be excluded from the survey if he or she is:

1. Not resident in the LTCF on the day of the survey

2. Living full-time or short term in the LTCF, but not present at 08:00AM on the morning of the survey date for that ward/unit (e.g., absent for holidays or currently admitted overnight to hospital as an inpatient)

3. Attending the LTCF day care centre only and not living full-time or short term in the LTCF

4. Hospitalised on the survey date for that ward/unit (i.e., admitted overnight to hospital as an inpatient)

Note: residents receiving chronic ambulatory care (i.e., not admitted to hospital overnight as an inpatient on the survey date) on a regular basis (e.g., outpatient haemodialysis, or oncology day ward chemotherapy etc.) should NOT be excluded from the survey.