

JSNA Health and Wellbeing Profile 2026/27

Seasonal Influenza Immunisations

Summary points

- Bristol's seasonal flu immunisation uptake increased across all primary care administered populations in 2025/26 compared to the previous year, with notable improvements in 2 and 3 year olds and pregnant women.
- Bristol's seasonal flu immunisation coverage rates remain higher than the England average across all primary care administered populations in 2025/26.
- 54.3% of primary school aged children in Bristol received a flu immunisation in 2025/26, lower than the national average of 55.5%.

Seasonal influenza (flu) is an acute viral infection that is easily transmitted. For otherwise healthy individuals, seasonal flu is an unpleasant but usually self-limiting disease. However, the risk of serious illness from seasonal flu is greater in babies under six months, older people, pregnant women and those with underlying health conditions and can therefore have a significant impact at population level. Annual flu vaccination programmes are the main protective action against severe influenza illness.

Seasonal flu immunisation uptake in primary care administered populations

The vaccine programme has been offered to those age 65 and over for many years in addition to pregnant women, those who have immune-suppressing or long-term conditions, and 2-3 year old children. Within the population groups for whom the seasonal flu immunisation is administered by their GP or local pharmacy, Bristol's uptake rates for 2025/26 are higher than the national average across all groups (Figure 1). Bristol improved its uptake in all primary care administered populations in 2025/26 compared with the previous year, as did England with the exception of 65's and overs which experienced a small decrease.

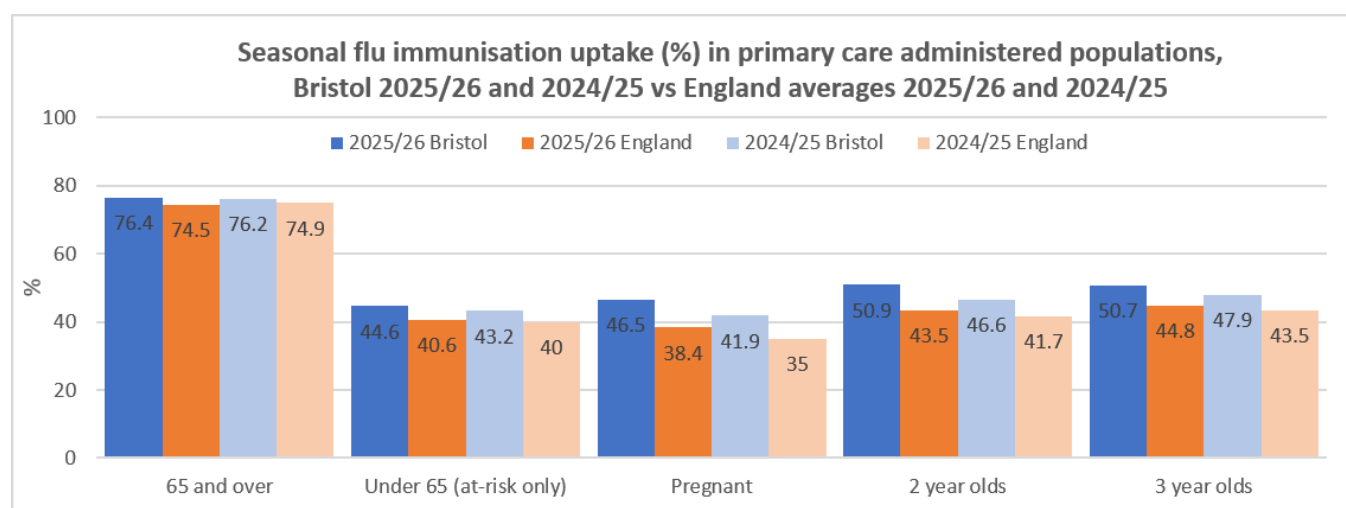


Figure 1: Seasonal flu vaccine uptake figures for primary care administered populations, 2024/25-2025/26

Uptake in pregnant people access vaccination through their GP, local Pharmacy or midwife and in Bristol in 2025/26 was the highest recorded in the last seven years at 46.5%. In 2025/6 2 and 3 year old flu vaccination was expanded to enable access through either GP or local pharmacy.

Uptake in 2-year-olds was the highest since 2020/21 and uptake in 3-year-olds was the highest since 2021/22.

Coverage rates for people in Bristol aged 65 and over in 2025/26 improved slightly compared with 2024/25 following three years of decline after the 2021/22 peak (which was thought to be due to increased awareness of the vaccine as part of the communications around the COVID-19 pandemic) and remain higher than pre-pandemic levels (Figure 2). Data at GP practice level aggregated to locality level shows the variation in uptake across the city, from 70.1% in Inner City and East Bristol to 75.6% in South Bristol to 80.0% in North and West Bristol.

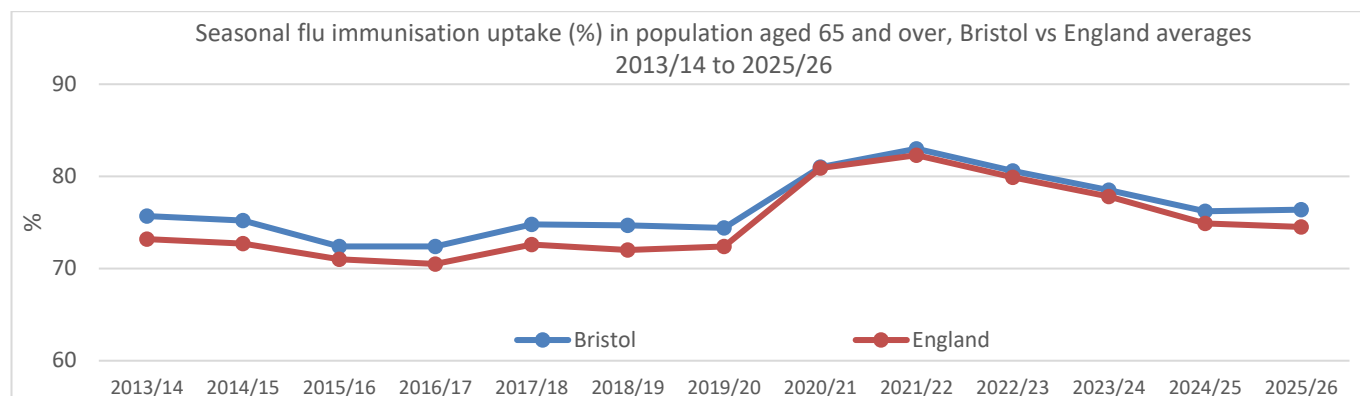


Figure 2: Seasonal flu vaccine uptake figures for primary care administered population aged 65 and over, 2013/14 to 2025/26

In the under 65 at risk group Bristol's uptake has been higher than the national average for the last three years. Coverage rates in Bristol and nationally have been decreasing between 2020/21 and 2023/24 but have slowly increased since. There is an increasing gap between Bristol's coverage and England's coverage (Figure 3).

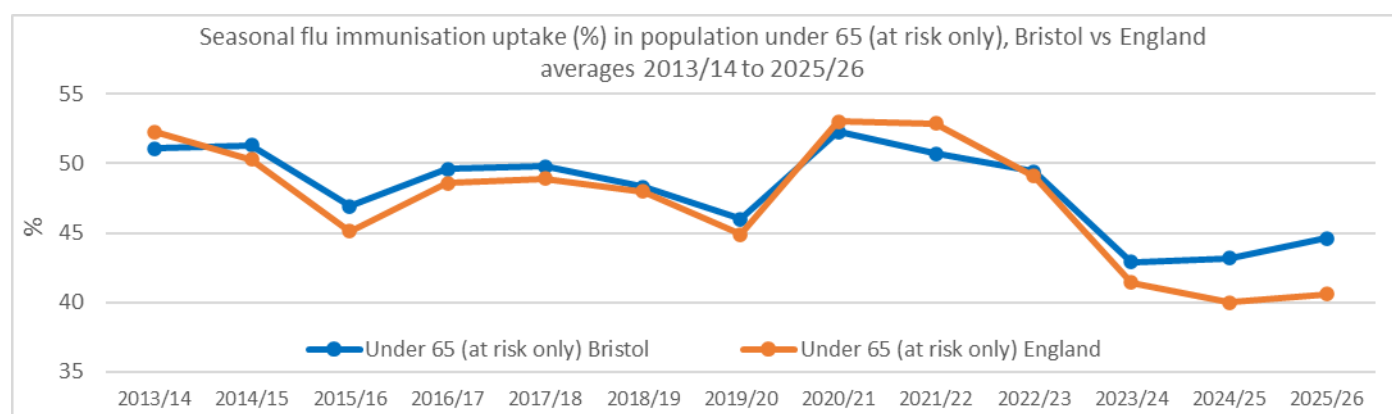


Figure 3: Seasonal flu vaccine uptake figures for primary care administered population under 65 (at risk only), 2013/14 to 2025/26

Seasonal flu immunisation uptake in school-age children

Since 2016/17, a school-based model has been used, delivered by a school aged immunisation service. For the winter season of 2025/26 vaccination of school age children, was offered from age 4 to 16 years (reception to year 11). This was through school based clinics plus several community clinics for those who were out of school, absent on the day of the school clinic.

Figure 4 below shows that Bristol's uptake in 2025/26 for primary school age children was lower than the national average across all year groups, except for 5/6 year olds. Uptake for Reception pupils in Bristol reduced from 62% in 2024/25 to 55.1% in 2025/26.

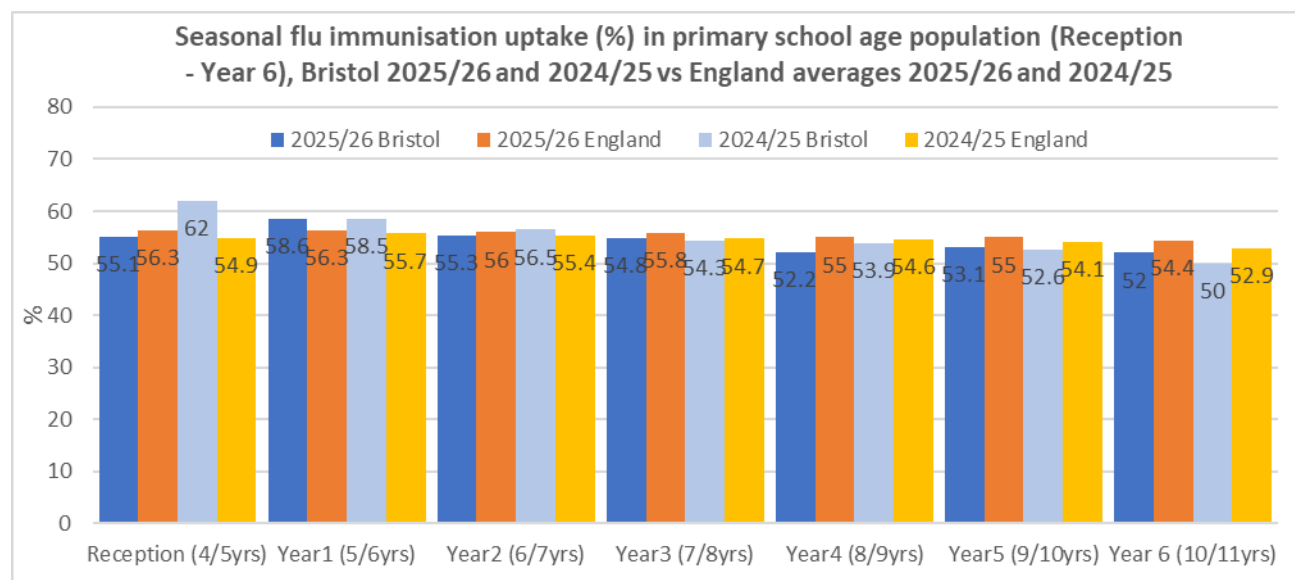


Figure 4: Seasonal flu vaccine uptake figures for Primary care administered populations, 2024/25-2025/26

Coverage in all academic years in Bristol schools decreased in 2021/22. Delivery of Covid-19 vaccinations to 12 to 15 year olds was prioritised during the Autumn and Winter of 2021/22 and was the likely reason for the reduced capacity to deliver flu immunisations in schools and uptake over the same period (Figures 5,6 and 7). However uptake increased significantly in 2022/23 and increased further in 2023/24 and 2024/25 for Year 1 and Year 4 children. Over the last nine years the gap between Bristol's uptake and the national average has reduced significantly.

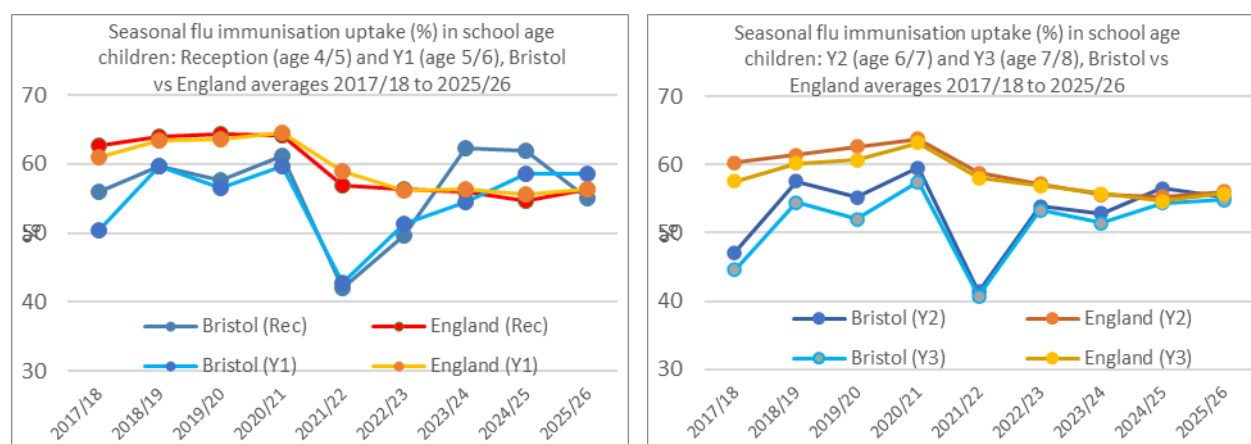


Figure 5 and 6: Seasonal flu vaccine uptake figures for primary school children aged 4 to 8 years, 2017/18 to 2025/26

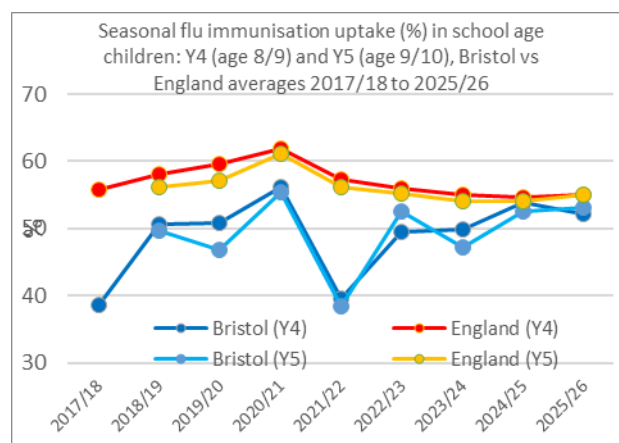


Figure 7: Seasonal flu vaccine uptake figures for primary school children aged 8 to 10 years, 2017/18 to 2025/26

Overall Bristol's vaccination uptake for school aged children aged 4 to 16 was 50.7%, lower than the national average of 52.2%. This can be broken down further with 54.3% of primary school aged children receiving a vaccination in Bristol, lower than the national average (55.5%) and 46.0% of secondary school aged children receiving a vaccination, lower than the national average of 48.0%. Of the 150 local authorities who submitted their data Bristol ranked 78th highest across all school years from age 4 to 16 years of age.

Bristol's school-age population is ethnically and culturally diverse, and there are large numbers of children in the city for whom porcine products may raise objections due to their faith or other beliefs. The injectable porcine free flu vaccine is offered and promoted as an alternative to this group to improve uptake.

Equalities data:

Analysis of local data by broad ethnic groups shows that 79.9% of people of White ethnicity aged 65 and over received the flu vaccination in 2025/26, higher than the city average. People of Black ethnicity had the lowest uptake at 45.4%, significantly lower than the city average. There was no difference between male and female take-up in the over 65's age group.

In the younger age groups (2-15 years) vaccination take-up was highest in children of White ethnicity (53.8%), and lowest in children of Black ethnicity (20.5%). Analysis identified that in the 2-3 years and 4-10 years group a slightly higher proportion of females received the vaccination than males but between the ages of 11 and 15 take-up was slightly higher in males.

National data (available via the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) fingertips tool: <https://fingertips.fingertips.phe.org.uk/>) indicates that coverage for the population aged 65 years and over is highest in the least deprived areas and lowest in the most deprived areas.

Further data / links / consultations:

- Seasonal flu vaccine uptake: <https://www.gov.uk/seasonal-flu-vaccine-uptake:-figures>

Date updated: June 2026

Date of next update: June 2027