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PRESS RELEASE

Be a Flu Hero!

Staff at Dudley's hospital trust are protecting their patients this winter by getting their flu vaccinations.

A major vaccination campaign is underway at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust to ensure everyone working there – from porters to consultants, nurses to volunteers – can get their flu jab.

A team of 'peer vaccinators' has stepped up to the challenge to provide the flu shot to staff in their wards and areas.

Chief executive Diane Wake said: "It's really important that all of us working in the Trust get vaccinated to protect ourselves, our patients and our families. Flu can be a very serious illness and even people who appear to be fit and well can pass the virus on.

"Frontline healthcare workers are more likely to be exposed to flu, and it's been estimated that up to one in four healthcare workers may become infected even during a mild flu season.

"That's why we offer all our staff, including those working out in the community and on night shifts, the chance to get their flu jabs. Our peer vaccinators do a fantastic job in making it as easy as possible for staff to get protected and we are really grateful to them for taking on this extra task."

Flu vaccinations are not compulsory for healthcare staff in the UK but each year the NHS sets a target for trusts to reach. Last year Dudley Group surpassed the 75 per cent target and this year is well on its way to getting 80 per cent of staff vaccinated by the end of February.

Public Health England say that on average around 8,000 people die each year from flu, and some years that may be as high as 14,000. The patient population in hospitals is more vulnerable to severe side effects

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