

## **MASTA announcement – Flu vaccination supply (July 2019)**

We are writing with regards to your Quadrivalent Influenza Vaccine (QIVe) order for the 2019/2020 season.

The World Health Organization (WHO) took a decision to delay the selection of the A/H3N2 strain notification by one month. This has had an effect on the manufacturing timelines of the vaccine and will impact the vaccine time to market.

As a result delivery to all of our customers will commence later than last season and we wanted to advise you of this as soon as possible.

Given that we have just been notified of the delay we now need to re-plan our delivery schedule with a view to being able to confirm named day dates to you during August.

We are very mindful of that fact that you will want to start planning your clinics, or that you may need to reorganise them in light of this update. Whilst we are unable to provide further detail at this stage we can confirm that the doses will come into us over a phased schedule, and that we aim to provide everybody with doses during the first phase of delivery into us.

First deliveries will be early to mid-October and therefore it would be sensible to assume that you will receive doses in time for scheduling clinics during the latter half of October.

We appreciate that this update may not provide all the information you need at this stage to pre-plan your vaccination activity. However as you will appreciate the delay is as a result of WHO taking measures with the aim to achieve optimum effectiveness of the vaccine in at risk patients.

Please be assured that we will be in touch as soon as we can with your schedule and that our aim (as always) is to deliver out the vaccines to you as soon as we are physically able to.