**Public questions from Healthwatch Rochdale Public Board Meeting.**

**Thursday 17th September 2020, 2pm – 3pm.**

The following questions were submitted in advance:

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|  | **Questions** |
| 1. | The free NHS flu programme is normally for people aged 65 and over, pregnant women, people with certain conditions such as kidney disease, asthma or heart disease and carers or those in care homes. Frontline health and social care workers are also eligible to receive the flu vaccine.The flu jab is also free for children over six months with a long-term health condition, those aged two and three and those in primary school. It has been reported widely in the national media that this programme will now be extended to include anyone aged 50 and over, and children who are aged 11 by the end of August this year – the first year of secondary school. Anyone living in a household with somebody on the [NHS shielded patient list for Covid-19](https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/shielded-patient-list) will also be eligible for a free jab. I get my Flu jab free each year since I'm a keyworker in an area designated as high risk of community transmission  and am grateful to the NHS for it, however I have been told that ASDA Rochdale are still rationing out the Flu vaccination in age related groups saying that it is only free to those aged  65 or over.Is this the case and is it possible for Rochdale Healthwatch to clarify this since I know it is causing some confusion locally with people anxious to get a flu vaccination. |
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| 2. | Are old and vulnerable people still being discharged from NHS hospital settings without first having a clear Cv19 test into local care homes?It has also been reported in some sections of the media that letters from several councils in the North West have been sent asking all care homes in their area to immediately stop family visits, due to a rise in coronavirus , except for end of life visits. Are Healthwatch able to clarify whether or not visits to care homes in Rochdale, Heywood and Middleton are to be immediately restricted in the same way due to rising Cv19 infection rates in our area ? |
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**Answers to these questions will be provided and updated on the website.**