

NHS update to:  
Birmingham  
COVID Engagement Board

- Rising demand for healthcare support due to COVID, across all healthcare settings
- Increasing number of people being admitted to hospital with COVID and increasing number of people in ITU/ventilated beds
- Concern regarding over 65s
- Difficult decisions having to be made about stopping elective work, for all but those with serious health problems
- Preparations under way from GPs and system partners to deliver the COVID vaccines, prioritising those most at risk and health and care staff first
- Concerned that flu vaccination rates still below target levels for some of our most vulnerable residents; a targeted approach is being put in place
- Specific focus on flu vaccination for 50-64 year olds from 01/12, given recent announcement
- Sickness rates for health staff higher than usual due to COVID related illnesses and the pressure of responding to the pandemic
- Additional appointments at primary care at GP Referral Centres made available to support system pressures
- NHS 111 First starting to go live for EDs and UTCs; communications campaign imminent
- Joint work continues to ensure that care home residents are well supported
- Mental health support in place for the general public and key workers
- Bereavement support service also in place.