



Messaging accompanying issue 18 of green/red reports

December 2023

**Winter Messaging:**

As we progress through the winter months, we are seeing a notable increase in patients presenting with respiratory symptoms, many of which are viral.

**Strive for five:** In the event that antibiotics are warranted the “Strive for 5 “ initiative recommends 5 day course of antibiotics for community acquired pneumonia, infective exacerbation of COPD, tonsillitis and acute bacterial sinusitis. Shorter courses (5 days) have been proven equally effective as 7 days courses in these conditions. Further details found on: <https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/list/2/gp/antibiotic-prescribing/conditions-and-treatments/upper-respiratory/>

**Winter vaccination:** The HSE Autumn Winter Vaccination programme was rolled out in Oct 2023. Older people, at-risk groups and health and care workers are urged to get vaccinated and protect themselves against both Flu and COVID19. The COVID19 booster can be received 3 months from the last COVID19 infection or booster. Pneumococcal vaccine is also available for all patients over 65 years and some in high-risk categories. Further information can be found at <https://www.hse.ie/eng/health/immunisation/hcpinfo/othervaccines/pneumo/>