

Classification: Official

Publication approval reference: C1125

To:

- All NHS Trust Chief Executives (Vaccination Centres)
- All Local Authority Chief Executives

Copy to:

- Chairs of ICS and STPs
- All CCG Chairs
- Chairs of NHS trusts and foundation trusts
- ICS and STP leads
- All CCG Accountable Officers
- NHS Regional Directors
- NHS Regional Directors of Commissioning

11 February 2021

Dear Colleague,

Self-referral for social care worker vaccination

Thank you for your work to support the delivery of the COVID vaccination programme. We wrote to you on 14 January 2021 to set out the operational guidance for the vaccination of frontline social care workers. We are now writing to set out next steps for eligible social care worker vaccination, which includes self-referral.

The social care sector is diverse and involves a significant number of different employers, including individual service users through direct payments. Since vaccination of eligible frontline social care workers started in January, feedback from staff and providers has been positive.

However, to ensure maximum uptake of vaccination and timely, equitable access, the National Booking System will now be made available to eligible social care workers to self-refer. A full list of those who are eligible is included in Annex A.

For a limited period, until 28 February, eligible staff will be able to self-book a vaccination at a vaccination centre or community pharmacy led local vaccination service online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination. Staff should try online booking first but if this is not possible, they can phone 119 free of charge, 7am to 11pm, 7 days a week.

When using the online or telephone service, social care workers will need to self-declare at the point of booking and will be asked for identification and written authorisation when they attend their vaccination appointment. This includes a work photo ID card, authorisation letter from the local authority, a signed letter of authorisation from their employer or wage slip that is dated within the last 3 months. Where work photo ID is not available, alternative photographic identification is required to support verification.

Guidance will be provided to Vaccination Centres and Community Pharmacies delivering vaccines to support this eligibility check. Local authorities are asked to share their list of social care employers/orgs/companies/contractors with their local NHS partners to support verification at the vaccination centres.

The National Booking System will be monitored daily to support capacity and compliance.

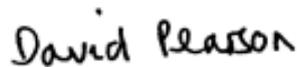
Local authorities are now asked to work with their local CCG to ensure that all CQC-registered domiciliary care providers and care homes, as well as employees in non CQC-registered settings have been contacted and information on self-referral has been cascaded.

Thank you for your continued support.



Emily Lawson

NHS Chief Commercial Officer and
SRO Vaccine Deployment



Sir David Pearson CBE

Chair, Social Care Sector
COVID-19 Support Task Force

Annex A: The government "Green Book" for immunisation against infectious disease includes the following definition for frontline social workers:

Occupational Group	Example of roles in scope
Direct care – these roles involve directly working with people who need care and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care worker • Personal Assistant • Rehabilitation, reablement, enablement worker • Shared lives Carer
Frontline suppliers with direct contact with clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team leader or supervisor • Specialist coordinator, such as Dementia or end of life care coordinator
Social care support – these roles provide direct support functions to clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing support • Social care prescriber/Care Navigator • Welfare rights • Employment advisor
Ancillary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook or Kitchen assistant • Housekeeping or domestic worker • Driver • Maintenance
Regulated professionals – these roles require the worker to hold relevant qualifications and to be registered with a regulated body to practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social worker • Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) • Occupational Therapist • Nurse including nursing associate • Counsellor

The following are, however, **not eligible** within this priority group as defined by the JCVI:

- Administrative staff who do not have any direct contact with clients.
- Social care workers working with children who are not considered priority within the context of the JCVI priority cohorts 1-9 (children under 16 who do not have underlying health conditions leading to greater risk of disease or mortality and children who have no underlying health conditions).
- Unpaid carers
- Teachers and teaching assistants