

Regional Clinical Advice Response Service 16/04/21

For any COVID-19 vaccination related queries or to escalate an incident please contact:
england.swcovid19-voc@nhs.net

Please note that going forward and in line with the RVOC and NVOC, RCARS will now operate between the hours of 8am and 6pm over the weekend.

**PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL RELEVANT STAFF INVOLVED WITH THE
VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

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Process for Offering Patients Aged 29 and Under in Cohorts 1-9 Who Are Eligible But Have Not Yet Received Their First Vaccination: An Alternative To Astrazeneca

Dear Colleagues,

We have assessed that there are between 0.4m and 1.2m patients aged 29 and under in cohorts 1-9 who are eligible but have not yet received their first vaccination. The wide range is driven by the challenges in establishing an accurate denominator for Cohort 6a – household contacts of people who are immunosuppressed.

The programme
the offer for

NHS England and NHS Improvement

is committed to ensuring
patients aged 29 and



under in cohorts 1-9 remains open. Those individuals who have not yet been vaccinated are still able to come forward and, wherever possible, access an alternative to AstraZeneca as soon as possible. We expect first dose deliveries of Pfizer BioNtech will commence again at higher volumes from 10 May.

The following approach for accessing supply has been designed in order to ensure access to Pfizer BioNtech where it is needed for patients aged 29 and under, whilst guarding against over-supply of Pfizer BioNtech which could affect 2nd dose deliveries. Where first dose deliveries are made, subsequent second doses are guaranteed.

Those who can be offered a first dose of Pfizer BioNtech include:

- Patients aged 29 and under who had an NBS booking for an AstraZeneca vaccination that has been cancelled, and who have been directed back to their GP to access alternative options
- Patients aged 29 and under in cohorts 1-9 who have not yet presented for a vaccination and come forward individually, or following interventions at site or system level to encourage uptake
- 16 and 17 year old carers who have not yet been vaccinated

GP teams should be advised to look to first vaccinate these individuals with Pfizer BioNtech through excess supply from 2nd dose clinics within their own PCN/ LVS. We know there is an over-supply of Pfizer BioNtech 2nd doses into the system as a result of rounding to both full and baby-pack sizes, and these spare 2nd doses should be directed wherever possible to enable first dose delivery to the above groups.

GP teams should look across the PCN/LVS supply of Pfizer BioNtech for 2nd doses to identify if they have spare supply to vaccinate those who now require a Pfizer BioNtech 1st dose.

If this is not possible, systems will be required to play a central role in coordinating demand for 1st doses for patients aged 29 and under in cohorts 1-9, directing patients where necessary and / or managing requests for additional Pfizer BioNtech supply through the standard SVOC/RVOC process.

Where a GP team/PCN/LVS escalates a need for 1st dose Pfizer BioNtech for patients aged 29 and under, systems are requested to put local mechanisms in place that will:

- Assess the accessibility of 1st dose clinics of alternative vaccines (Pfizer BioNtech or Moderna) and facilitate patients to access a vaccination
- Where demand cannot be met through existing supply systems should:
 - identify a live PCN/ LVS site to host non-AstraZeneca clinic for patients
 - communicate and agree with the site
 - request Pfizer BioNtech pack-down through RVOC / NVOC using the standard - **Specific Query template**.
 - confirm delivery dates back to PCN/ LVS / system to facilitate local booking

Requests for additional Pfizer BioNtech pack-down will be processed weekly, in line with the existing allocation planning process. Requests received **by 12:00 each Wednesday** will be processed and delivered in line with existing delivery schedules the following week.

Requests received after this cut-off will be recorded and actioned in the following weekly planning process.

It remains critical that we continue to protect Pfizer BioNtech 2nd dose supply, and systems are therefore requested to assure any requests for additional Pfizer BioNtech 1st doses will be directed to patients aged 29 and under in cohorts 1-9. Sites must not use this process to request first doses of Pfizer BioNtech for patients aged 30 and over, or for those without contraindications.

For all recipients in cohorts 1-9 who have received a first dose of AstraZeneca and are due to receive their 2nd dose, appointments should continue unless AstraZeneca is contraindicated.

Any queries on this process should be escalated to NVOC, via existing routes.

Materials to Support Those With Severe Mental Illness in Getting their Vaccination

A series of short videos on COVID-19 vaccination have been developed to support and encourage people with Severe Mental Illness (SMI) to get their COVID-19 vaccines, and for promotion with GPs and healthcare professionals.

- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine: Personal experience guide for people with severe mental illness, Part 1: <https://youtu.be/NBl4lhIPw2w>
- Getting the COVID-19 vaccine: Personal experience guide for people with severe mental illness, Part 2: <https://youtu.be/gYWAbY0-tEw>
- COVID-19 vaccination: A guide for GPs and teams to support people with severe mental illness: <https://youtu.be/OusrDVmUDZg>

It would be appreciated if you could share the following tweet from your Twitter account (if applicable) and support us in reaching more people:

- New videos to support people with severe mental illness (SMI) get their #COVID19 #vaccine and advice for primary care professionals that support people with SMI are now available here: <https://bit.ly/3fM24KF> @PHE_uk @EquallyWellUK @NHSEngland @dremmatiffin @wendyburn @CoProNorfolk

The videos have been developed by Public Health England in collaboration with [Equally Well UK](#) and [NHS England](#), including GP professionals and Expert by Experience. They provide useful information for people with SMI to know what to expect from the vaccination process and how to prepare before their appointments. They also provide information for primary care professionals to better support people with SMI in their areas.

Equally Well UK have also produced a guide for people with a diagnosis of severe mental illness to support them with their vaccination, [which can be found here](#).

Please help us disseminate these valuable resources with your local networks and trusted partners.

Best wishes,
The Public Mental Health team

Updated Guidance on Blood Clotting – Healthcare Professionals and Patients

Two guides (version 2) are now available and include further information (FAQs) and updates to guidance published previously.

COVID-19 AZ vaccination and blood clotting healthcare professional guide here (and attached):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-blood-clotting-information-for-healthcare-professionals>

This is for download only.

Please note: this publication is under constant version, please bookmark the link above and make sure you have the latest version.

COVID-19 vaccination and blood clotting – information about your vaccination here (and attached):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-and-blood-clotting>

This went into production on Friday 9th April and you can now order copies of this flyer [here](#) using the product code: COV2021700V1.

Copies will be dispatched from Tuesday 13 April 2021.


It should be given to anyone being offered the AZ vaccination.

Which Covid-19 Vaccine Poster

The below poster featuring the Pfizer BioNtech, Oxford AstraZeneca and the added Moderna vaccination vial/syringe presentation is now available online [here](#).

Which COVID-19 vaccine?

Pfizer/BioNTech
BNT162b2



Dose
0.3ml

Age from
16 years of age

Minimum interval between 2 doses
21 days

Pack size
195 multidose vials*

Minimum number of doses per vial
6

Requires dilution?
Yes with 1.8ml preservative free sodium chloride 0.9%

Frozen storage
-80°C to -60°C


Routine storage
Thawed and undiluted, 5 days (120 hours) at +2°C to +8°C

Use after 1st dose withdrawn
Once diluted, use within 6 hours
Store at +2°C to +25°C

Appearance
Diluted solution off white
with no particulates visible

Observation
15 minutes observation

AstraZeneca**



Dose
0.5ml

Age from
18 years of age

Minimum interval between 2 doses
28 days

Pack size
10 multidose vials

Minimum number of doses per vial
10 (5ml vial) / 8 (4ml vial)

Requires dilution?
No

Frozen storage
Not applicable


Routine storage
+2°C to +8°C, 6 months or until expiry

Use after 1st dose withdrawn
Use within 6 hours of first puncture
Store at +2°C to +25°C

Appearance
Colourless to slightly brown
clear to slightly opaque no particles

Observation
No observation period required but not to drive
for 15 minutes

Moderna



Dose
0.5ml

Age from
18 years of age

Minimum interval between 2 doses
28 days

Pack size
10 multidose vials

Minimum number of doses per vial
10

Requires dilution?
No

Frozen storage
-25°C to -15°C

Routine storage
Thawed, +2°C to +8°C for up to 30 days

Use after 1st dose withdrawn
Use within 6 hours of first puncture
Store at +2°C to +25°C

Appearance
White to off-white dispersion, may contain
white or translucent particulates

Observation
15 minutes observation

* Pack volumes may vary, check with your supplier

** The same AZ vaccine is currently being provided in either a green or red capped vial (according to production). Either syringe supplied can be used to administer the vaccine

Resources:

Green Book Chapter 14a: www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a • GOV.UK COVID-19 vaccination programme: www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme

Updated AZ national protocol:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/national-protocol-for-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca-chadox1-s-recombinant>

Frequently Asked Questions:

MHRA and JCVI guidance on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and very rare clotting disorders, see attached document.

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