

**Immunisation Clinical Advice Response Service 06/08/21**

For any COVID-19 vaccination related queries or to escalate an incident please contact:  
[england.swicars@nhs.net](mailto:england.swicars@nhs.net)

Please note that since Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August CARS has now become ICARS and will operate from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

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

**Contents:**

1. [Reminder – ICARS](#)
2. [JCVI issues updated advice on COVID-19 vaccination of young people aged 16 to 17](#)
3. [JCVI guidance in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations for children and young people](#)
4. [Pregnancy and vaccination](#)
5. [Pregnancy vaccination promotion resources](#)
6. [Consent and the national protocol](#)
7. [Key Learning re cold chain incidents](#)
8. [Fridge faults affecting vaccine supply for all models of delivery](#)
9. [Fridge manuals and advice](#)
10. [Managing challenging behaviours at vaccination sites guide for Site Managers](#)
11. [NHS London's Curbsights research on young Londoners – The Vaccine Variables.](#)
12. [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes: operational guidance](#)

**Reminder – ICARS**

Please note that since Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> August, CARS has become ICARS and operates from Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm. All COVID-19 vaccination related queries or incidents should be sent to the following address: [england.swicars@nhs.net](mailto:england.swicars@nhs.net).

**JCVI issues updated advice on COVID-19 vaccination of young people aged 16 to 17**

The JCVI announced on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2021 advising that all 16- and 17-year olds will be eligible to receive their first dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. Please see further details of this announcement [here](#).



## **JCVI guidance in relation to COVID-19 vaccinations for children and young people**

[JCVI statement](#) advises that children and young people aged 12 years and over with **specific underlying health conditions** that put them at risk of serious COVID-19, should be offered COVID-19 vaccination.

Colleagues should familiarise themselves with the letter of 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021, in relation to this issue, available [here](#).

## **Pregnancy and vaccination**

Since 16 April, the JCVI has recommended that pregnant women should be offered the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines alongside the general population.

NHSE&I has [written](#) to all maternity and primary care services on 30/07/2021 asking them to make every contact count in providing evidence-based advice to women on the benefits of vaccination in pregnancy for them and their babies.

Vaccination sites must also be prepared and have capacity in place to provide this essential advice. You can access [Public Health England](#) and [Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists](#) leaflets to help support answering any questions or concerns pregnant women may have around the vaccine.

Latest data [published on 25 July by UKOSS](#) suggests that the Delta variant is associated with an increased risk of severe illness among hospitalised pregnant women, compared with the Alpha and 'wildtype' variants of previous waves. The research also shows that of 171 pregnant women admitted to hospital between 16 May and 11 July, none had been fully vaccinated.

Guidance for vaccination sites on providing vaccination in pregnancy can be found [here](#). More detailed guidance and evidence on vaccination in pregnancy for clinicians can be found in [chapter 14a of the Green Book](#), and on the [RCOG website](#)

## **Pregnancy vaccination promotion resources**

There are four designs of the same 'Pregnant? Have your COVID-19 vaccines' poster which can be found on the Health Publications website, by searching using the product code: COV2021PG and downloaded and printed out. There are also print ready versions (with commercial printers marks on) for any teams who wish to print larger volumes locally. The web versions of all eight of these resources are download only for now.

4 x Posters product code: COV2021PG and link:

<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Spregnanthaveyourcovid19vaccineposters>

Pregnant? Have your COVID-19 vaccines' Social media cards (all four examples attached) – product code: COV2021PGS and link:  
<https://www.healthpublications.gov.uk/ViewArticle.html?sp=Spregnanthaveyourcovid19vaccine&socialmediacards>

### **Consent and the national protocol**

NHSE/I would like to remind colleagues of the principles around consent that are defined in the national protocol. We request that colleagues use this framework to support a review of their consent models and ensure they comply with the national protocol legislation.

The protocol states that the clinical assessment and consent process must be carried out by a trained registered healthcare professional only, and not all registered healthcare professionals can undertake this task. Please consult the “Characteristics of Staff” section in the National Protocol for [Pfizer](#), [AstraZeneca](#) and [Moderna](#) for full information on accepted staffing groups.

The use of self-assessment apps or non-registered workforce, to support with pre-screening prior to arriving at the vaccination centre, is permitted but the actual assessment and consent on site must be carried out by a registered healthcare professional. The National Protocol does not allow delegation of Phase 1 (clinical assessment & consent) to a non-registered member of staff on the day of the vaccination. Sites are reminded that local policies cannot overwrite the legal framework of the National Protocol.

### **Key Learning re cold chain incidents**

With the vaccination programme operating at such a high level all settings should remain familiar with best practise and the processes for maintaining the cold chain.

Key points to consider include:

- ensure daily monitoring occurs on all days vaccine is held in the fridge
- check that your data logger has an SD card, or equivalent functionality, and be prepared to download data when you report a cold chain incident
- ensure named individuals are identified each day to be responsible for stock monitoring and cold chain management
- keep clear records and have visible aide memoires as needed to ensure expiry times are not exceeded.

If you experience a cold chain or any other clinical incident report it promptly to ICARS [england.swicars@nhs.net](mailto:england.swicars@nhs.net) and they will support your investigation and any mutual aid required for vaccine supply.

### **Fridge faults affecting vaccine supply for all models of delivery**

Where a fridge fault affects vaccine supply site should follow these steps.

- report to ICARS team [england.swicars@nhs.net](mailto:england.swicars@nhs.net) copying in [england.swcovid19-voc@nhs.net](mailto:england.swcovid19-voc@nhs.net)
- report the fridge to Unipart so a replacement can be ordered Unipart Customer Service Desk - [CS@nhsvaccinesupport.com](mailto:CS@nhsvaccinesupport.com) 0800 678 1650 | 0700-1900 Mon- Sun
- report via the Foundry system/one care with batch numbers.

The relevant SOP is at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/standard-operating-procedure-management-of-covid-19-vaccination-clinical-incidents-and-enquiries/>

### **Fridge manuals and advice**

For fridges supplied by the national team, PDF manuals can be provided by contacting Unipart Customer Service Desk - [CS@nhsvaccinesupport.com](mailto:CS@nhsvaccinesupport.com) 0800 678 1650 | 0700-1900 Mon- Sun

Unipart Helpdesk can also provide fridge technical support phone numbers if sites request.

### **Managing challenging behaviours at vaccination sites guide for Site Managers**

This [guide](#) is for site managers in COVID-19 vaccination settings. It reinforces safety and security messages available in existing guidance and standard operating procedures.

Site managers are responsible for the safety, security and wellbeing of all staff and volunteers at the site. They are encouraged to display information on safety and security in volunteer and staff areas, and to use the content in [this pack with safety awareness steps to take by staff and volunteers should they come across challenging behaviours](#) and reinforce key messages. Individuals may become challenging for a number of reasons such as fear of needles, anxious about being in public having isolated, worried about protecting loved ones or fear they might catch the virus etc. Site Managers can help staff and volunteers to de-escalate challenging

behaviours by using team stand-up meetings to remind everyone to listen with empathy to bring calm to a situation and a safe outcome.

Please use the pack to outline to staff and volunteers how they can help manage challenging behaviours and display the posters included at your sites. Site Managers can use the pack as a complementary set of resources should local staff/volunteer safety and wellbeing policies and communications be in place.

### **NHS London's Curbsights research on young Londoners – The Vaccine Variables.**

This recent report, explores attitudes towards vaccine uptake amongst young Londoners, aged 18-24 and from Black African, Black African Caribbean and Eastern European communities.

The report will give an insight into:

- the barriers and motivations to vaccine uptake
- what you can do to encourage vaccine uptake

The key findings were that Young People:

- Don't see why they need to take the vaccine
- Want to return to normality
- Need to be spoken to directly and personally
- Have been swayed by talking to medical professionals.

Please see the attached pdf presentation for details of the report.

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes: operational guidance**

Published on the 4<sup>th</sup> August, please see attached the operational guidance for vaccination as condition of deployment for those working in care homes.

**All COVID-19 vaccination queries and incidents should be directed to:**  
**[england.swicars@nhs.net](mailto:england.swicars@nhs.net)**