



ICARS Newsletter

Issue 86: 29th April 2022

Immunisation Clinical Advice Response Service

About this bulletin:

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

PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL RELEVANT STAFF INVOLVED WITH THE VACCINATION PROGRAMME

Please note that ICARS operates from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

Contents:

1. [NEW: Communications Resources](#)
2. [ACTION REQUIRED: EU Patient Information Leaflet \(PIL\) to be discarded from boxes of Comirnaty® 10 microgram/dose Concentrate for Children 5-11 years](#)
3. [NEW: Updates on Vaccination Invites](#)
4. [NEW/UPDATES: Vaccination of population groups](#)
5. [NEW: Shelf-life extension at frozen storage conditions \(-25°C to -15°C\) has been approved for Spikevax® \(also known as COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna\)](#)

6. [NEW: 121m Vaccination Milestone](#)
7. [NEW: Novel coronavirus \(COVID-19\) standard operating procedure: Symptomatic and asymptomatic staff testing for cascade](#)
8. [NEW: Stock ordering, IT Systems and Payments Updates](#)
9. [NEW: Workforce IT issues, Learning and Resources](#)

1. NEW: Communications Resources

You can find [communications resources](#) on FutureNHS including our latest toolkits on [spring boosters](#), [12-15 year olds](#), [5-11 year olds](#), [people at greater clinical risk](#), [pregnant women](#) and [vaccination during Ramadan](#), and our set of [poster graphics](#) for sites showing who is eligible for what doses.

2. ACTION REQUIRED: EU Patient Information Leaflet (PIL) to be discarded from boxes of Comirnaty® 10 microgram/dose Concentrate for Children 5-11 years

Dear Colleagues,

Due to the ongoing high level of global demand for COVID-19 vaccines, Pfizer BioNTech is currently unable to produce country-specific packs of its Comirnaty® 10 microgram/dose concentrate product for children 5-11 years for the UK. To ensure our supply of this product is uninterrupted, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have agreed to an exception that allows Pfizer BioNTech to supply the UK with EU packs of Comirnaty® 10 microgram/dose Concentrate for Children 5-11 years.

This means that from this week onwards (w.c 25 April 2022), deliveries of all Comirnaty® 10 microgram/dose Concentrate for Children 5-11 years will be EU packs, with each box containing one EU Patient Information Leaflet (PIL).

These **EU PILs must not be given to children or their responsible adult, and sites are requested to remove and discard these at point of use.** Separate packs of UK PILs will be sent with each vaccine delivery as normal and therefore each child who receives a Comirnaty® 10 microgram/dose vaccination should continue to receive one of these UK PILs as per the standard process for administering vaccinations.

If you have any queries regarding any of the above, please contact your SVOC in the first instance who will escalate as necessary to support you.

Thank you for your ongoing support of the Programme

3. NEW: Updates on Vaccination Invites

3a) NEW: Notification of vaccination invites, prompts and reminders due this week

The below notifications are due to arrive w/c 25th April. Sites are asked load NBS and LBS appointment slots and walk-in capacity to accommodate potential increases in demand, ensuring adequate capacity outside of school hours for younger cohorts.

- **5-11**

Circa 1.4m letters to parents of 5-6 years olds to arrive between 25-27 April

- **5-11 At Risk 2nd Dose Prompt**

Emails to arrive on 27 April to those who have had their first dose more than 56 days ago. Letters advising the same to arrive at 29 April.

- **12-15 At Risk (including Severely immunosuppressed) Booster Invite**

Emails to arrive on 28 April to those who have had their previous dose at least 91 days ago. Letters advising the same to arrive at 30 April.

- **16-17 At Risk (including Severely immunosuppressed) 2nd Dose Prompt**

Emails to arrive on 27 April to those who have had their first dose more than 56 days ago. Letters advising the same to arrive at 29 April.

- **16+ Severely immunosuppressed 4th Dose Invitation**

Emails to arrive by 29 April and letters by 3rd May for Severely immunosuppressed aged 16+ and had their last booster at least 61 days ago.

- **18+ 2nd Dose Prompt**

SMS and emails are to be issued on 28 April (letters to arrive at 30 April) for adults aged 18+ who have had their 1st dose more than 35 days ago.

- **Reminder Boosters Invites**

SMS, email and letters are to be issued on 26 April (letters to arrive at 29 April) for adults aged 16+ who have had their 1st and 2nd dose at least 91 days ago.

Look ahead to w/c 2nd May:

- **Spring Booster Reminders**

Circa 1m emails, letters and SMS to be sent

- **16+ 2nd Dose Reminders**

Reminder letters to be sent to those who are overdue their second dose

3b) NEW: Advanced notification of vaccination cohort invites

	Update	Action
This Week	<u>5-11</u> A reminder to sites that circa 1.49million 5-11 invites are due to arrive by letter between 19-21 April, so sites are expected to see an increase in bookings for this cohort in the coming weeks.	Sites are asked to accommodate via usual NBS and LBS appointment slots and walk-in capacity.
Look Ahead	<u>5-11</u> Circa 1.4million letters to parents of 5-6 years olds to arrive between 25-27 April <u>Spring Booster Reminders</u> Circa 427k SMS, email and letters to be sent to people aged 16+	Regional leads are asked to plan activity with sites to accommodate the increase in demand for vaccinations.

4. NEW/UPDATES: Vaccination of population groups

4a) Vaccination information for pregnant women

There are some new resources available from UKHSA about vaccinations for pregnant women available [here](#)

A [quick links poster](#) with a QR code linking to the leaflet “Pregnancy: how to help protect you and your baby and the COVID-19 vaccination: a guide on pregnancy and breastfeeding” is available to download. It is also linked to the [UKHSA guidance](#) for women of childbearing age, currently planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding.

We have also created a TB, BCG and your baby [poster](#), and a [quick links poster](#) with QR codes to the English and translated versions of the TB, BCG and your baby leaflet is also available to download.

4b) Severely immunosuppressed payment supplement

In the LVS bulletin of 22 April 2022, we shared an [updated table](#) showing the current Item of Service fee, and flagged that the severely immunosuppressed payment supplement will no longer be paid for vaccinations given after 31 March 2022.

For vaccinations given after 31 March 2022, if you have recorded that the severely immunosuppressed supplement is applicable against a vaccination record, you need to adjust the record prior to the claim for payments being submitted. If you do not do this, any payments made will be reclaimed after a central data reconciliation exercise which will identify where payment supplements were no longer applicable.

Your Point of Care system provider will be in touch with more information.

4c) Overseas Vaccination Record Validation Service

Please can all Vaccination Centres with the Overseas Service ensure they are submitting the Overseas Data Template to VDRS on the day. If any sites have previous Data Template forms that they have not yet submitted to VDRS please contact [Michaela Sonnen](#) to discuss.

5. NEW: Shelf-life extension at frozen storage conditions (-25°C to -15°C) has been approved for Spikevax® (also known as COVID-19 Vaccine Moderna)

Moderna Biotech Spain S.L. has approved a shelf-life extension for Spikevax® vaccine when stored at frozen conditions (-25 °C to -15 °C). Frozen vials of Spikevax® vaccine manufactured before February 2022 and with listed expiry dates up to August 2022 can be stored for 9 months as opposed to 7 months.

Full details are in the letter from Moderna Biotech Spain SL, a copy of which can be viewed [here](#).

Spikevax® vaccine is supplied thawed to all Covid-19 vaccination sites and if the extension is applicable, it will be applied by our Specialist Pharmaceutical Logistics (SPLs) Partners prior to delivery to sites. **Sites do not need to take any further action.** The first deliveries to sites with this extension applied will be made from 21 April 2022 onwards.

As a result of the 2-month frozen shelf-life extension, sites may find that the thawed expiry date at 2°C to 8°C on the carton label is later than the expiry date printed on the vial of vaccine. **Please be assured that the vaccine is safe to use until the expiry date on the carton label.**

For example: The thaw label on the carton could say Exp: 03.06.2022, but the vial inside the carton might say Exp: 03/04/2022

Sites are not permitted to extend the shelf-life of any Spikevax® vaccine already held on-site. The existing expiry date on the thaw label on the carton must be followed.

All vials and cartons labelled by Moderna Biotech S.L. with an expiry date beyond August 2022 will already reflect the 9-month frozen shelf-life and no further action will need to be taken by the NHS or its partners.

6. NEW: 121m Vaccination Milestone

NHS England social media channels carried this post to celebrate and promote 121m vaccinations milestone



7. NEW: Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) standard operating procedure: Symptomatic and asymptomatic staff testing for cascade

Novel coronavirus (COVID-19) standard operating procedure: Symptomatic and asymptomatic staff testing

26 April 2022

This guidance has been updated to reflect the changes to the UK Health Security Agency's [COVID-19: management of staff and exposed patients or residents in health and social care settings guidance](#). It replaces previous standard operating procedures (SOPs) and FAQs for lateral flow device (LFD) use in NHS trusts and primary care and use of LFD for vaccination sites. This guidance is correct at the time of publishing. However, as it is subject to updates, please use the hyperlinks to confirm the information you are disseminating to your staff is accurate

Classification: Official

Publication approval reference: C1633

Overall aim

Staff testing is an important component of the infection prevention and control (IPC) procedures which all NHS organisations and staff have a duty to follow.

This SOP (standard operating procedure) applies to all staff who are working in NHS organisations, all of whom will have access to symptomatic testing.

Patient-facing NHS staff should participate in the NHS asymptomatic testing programme. This is for all patient-facing staff including, for example, permanent and temporary staff, active volunteers, students and trust-based contractor staff. If staff members are unsure whether or not they should participate in the programme, they should discuss this with their line manager.

Also included are those working in England providing patient-facing care to NHS patients in an Independent Healthcare Provider (IHP), Prisons, Immigration Reception Centres, and other Places of Detention where a testing regime has been advised to continue. Other staff within these settings will not be eligible for free asymptomatic testing.

We must continue to keep patients and staff safe from potential transmission of COVID-19 in healthcare settings by ensuring that twice weekly testing continues for eligible staff.

Objectives

The objectives of staff testing are to:

- protect patients
- protect staff
- support the NHS in its infection control risk reduction strategy
- reduce staff COVID-19 absenteeism
- support both COVID-19 and non-COVID-19 clinical pathways

Please find the full guidance [here](#) or attached in the circulated email.

8. NEW: Stock ordering, IT Systems and Payments Updates

8a) NEW: Information for vaccination sites that have a '12-15' site in Q-Flow

The National Booking Service (NBS) team are currently working to migrate any separate '12-15' vaccination sites in Q-Flow into a new service line/calendar within the primary site. We will continue to provide you with updates in this Bulletin. In the meantime if you have any questions the NBS Onboarding team

are running drop in sessions 13:30-14:00 on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays - [Click here for NBS Drop In Sessions](#)

8b) NEW: New stocktake compliance rule for ordering will be implemented for all vaccine orders from Monday 9 May 2022

Dear Colleagues,

Please be reminded that **vaccination sites across all delivery models are required to undertake a stocktake of all vaccine types at least once every 7 days** and input this data into Site Stock Manager on Foundry.

This data is critical for the Programme, as it ensures vaccination sites are allocated the right levels of supplies to meet their expected demand and that their stock holdings remain at an appropriate level to avoid wastage. In addition, it also helps our Systems and Regions to better support sites in coordinating mutual aid when needed.

Given the importance of this data, from **Monday 9 May 2022, sites which have not conducted a stocktake within 7 days will not be able to place any further orders on the Ordering Platform until they record a stocktake on Site Stock Manager.**

Sites that have not completed a 7 day stocktake will be notified that their order cannot be placed until a stocktake has been completed by a pop up box on the system. Once a stocktake has been completed, sites will be able to go back onto the Ordering Platform and raise their order again after 45 minutes.

The system will make allowances for new sites and sites that might have paused vaccinations and had no deliveries for a while.

Further information on exactly how this process will operate will be communicated prior to the launch. To help you all with this, an FAQ is already available on NHS Futures ([here](#)) to support sites with any questions they may have now. Should further assistance be required please raise any queries to you SVOC in the first instance.

Sites that are not already conducting a weekly stocktake are asked to commence these with immediate effect to avoid this new process impacting them come the 9 May.

Key actions for a site when recording a stocktake:

- Create a **new stocktake record each week for each vaccine type and batch number**, please do not *edit an existing stocktake record*.
- Input the site name (not the Trust name) in the search function, and then ensure all fields within the entry form "Add New Stocktake", are accurately completed

- Make sure the date of the stocktake entry is accurate as this will impact on future orders
- Make sure the expiry date and batch storage is accurate, as this impacts the stock view. If the vaccine is thawed, ensure the thawed expiry/use-by date for the vaccine and batch number is submitted, this is clearly visible on the cartons of vials for both Spikevax® (Moderna), Comirnaty® (Pfizer). If the vaccine is frozen, ensure the frozen expiry date for the vaccine and batch is submitted. Once it is thawed, you will have to make a new entry with the thawed expired/use-by date.

A full user guide on how to find the Site Stock Manager and access it is available [here](#) on NHS Futures.

Thank you for your ongoing support, which the team greatly appreciate

8c) NEW: Payments update

An updated table showing the current Item of Service fees and supplementary payments for COVID-19 vaccinations for Local Vaccination Services is available [here](#). Please note that the £10 supplement for vaccinations to severely immunosuppressed patients ended on 31 March 2022; please continue to prioritise this vulnerable group.

9. NEW: Workforce IT issues, Learning and Resources

9a) NEW: REMINDER: FutureNHS page for raising IT issues

The Vaccination Service Desk have a [page on FutureNHS](#) designed to support front-line staff and members to report tech and data issues for:

- Pinnacle
- Vaccination records
- National Immunisation Vaccination System (NIVS)
- Foundry
- National Booking System or Q-Flow
- MYS
- Other tech and data queries.

Please encourage staff to visit this page and select the nature of their query to view the information required by the Vaccination Service Desk team. Send this to us via email at vaccineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk.

Using these templates will ensure that your issues or query are dealt with efficiently.

9b) REMINDER: Pinnacle Site Admin queries

We would like to remind our colleagues and front-line staff that they should, in the first instance, contact their site admins when calling about the following Pinnacle queries or issues.

- User has not received Pinnacle log in details (post 48 hours Go Live) *If site is not within the 48 hours Go Live date.
- Unable to access account.
- Request for new account.
- Forgotten Password.
- Permissions within Account, i.e., User cannot access a certain area within Pinnacle that they should have access to, or their role is set incorrectly (unable to see service tab for instance).
- User is not a site admin and would like to run a report.
- Existing User requires password reset and has access to their emails.
- Existing User requires password reset and is not aware of what their security word is.
- Security word reset.

Please encourage staff to visit this page for information required for users of the Outcomes4Health **Solution (Pinnacle) : Help - Outcomes4Health** [Home Page - Outcomes4Health](#)

9c) NEW: Sharing Good Practice and Local Stories

Thanks to all of those who have shared their inspiring work during the past few months. With so much happening in the news, it is more important than ever that we keep finding and sharing examples of human interest stories about those getting vaccinated, and working or volunteering to support vaccinations, as well as good and promising practice in sites.

As well as sharing these across the Programme or promoting them externally, we can use this learning to inform future work across the NHS. Please send any good examples to england.vaccination-comms@nhs.net.

9d) REMINDER: Useful Links

General queries email: england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net

LVS and Roving SOP Publications:

Standard Operating Procedure for mobile and roving models (updated 7 October 2021) [here](#)

Standard Operating Procedure for Local Vaccination Services (updated 8 October 2021) [here](#)

Phase 3 FAQs:

[Phase 3 FAQs for GPs / PCN-led sites](#)

[FAQs Pharmacy-led Phase 3 LVS](#)

Press notice: [Press notice: JCVI issues advice on third vaccination for severely immunosuppressed](#)

JCVI full advice: [JCVI advice on third dose for severely immunosuppressed](#)

Clinical updates: you can find all clinical updates [here](#)

[Coronavirus vaccinations](#): NHS Digital helps you access up-to-date information, training and onboarding guides related to the tech and data solutions that are supporting the COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination programmes.

[COVID-19 Vaccination Programme workspace](#) provides members with access to key documents, resources, webinar recordings, case studies and past copies of the LVS Updates. There is also a discussion forum for members. If you are not already a member, please email: P_C_N-manager@future.nhs.uk

[COVID-19 Vaccine Equalities Connect and Exchange Hub](#) is a community of practices on the Future NHS platform. NHS, local authority, public and voluntary sector staff working to increase vaccine uptake, share ideas, evidence, resources, case studies and blueprints to increase uptake of the COVID19 vaccine within all communities. Members also have access to peer-to-peer support and a programme of regular lunch and learn webinars and live discussion forums. To join, please [register for an account](#) and once registered you can [join the Hub](#).

[Supply and Delivery Hub](#) helps you access key information in a timely way and help support you to deliver your local vaccination service. Here you will find the

latest delivery information (vaccine and vaccine consumables as well as non-vaccine consumables, equipment and PPE), alongside the latest supply chain and customer service FAQs and other helpful information.

National Workforce Support Offer – more details:

- [National Workforce Support Offer Toolkit](#) provides more detail about the National Workforce Support Offer and is a practical guide for local vaccination service leads.
- Contact your [Lead Employer](#) to access the National Offer and additional staff and vaccinators, as well as support with your workforce needs.
- For more details, please see our Futures NHS pages [LVS Workforce](#) and [case studies/FAQs](#) and recently guidance for [PCN groupings](#) and [community pharmacy](#)
- Contact the national workforce team direct via PCNCP.workforceescalation@nhs.net

[COVID-19 Vaccination Improvement Hub](#)