

# ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



*Issue 90: 27<sup>th</sup> May 2022*

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

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

*Please note that this service operates 9am-5pm Monday to Friday*

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## **NEW: Publication of the JCVI interim statement on COVID-19 autumn 2022 vaccination programme**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has published its [interim recommendations to Government](#) that a further dose of COVID-19 vaccine should be offered from autumn to:

- residents in a care home for older adults and staff
- frontline health and social care workers
- all those 65 years of age and over
- adults aged 16 to 64 years who are in a clinical risk group

The advice should be considered as interim and for the purposes of operational planning for autumn 2022. JCVI will make its final recommendations later this year to be considered by Government.

In answer to questions from the public and others, we are confirming that the NHS is getting ready to ensure we can give vaccines to those eligible once a final decision is made by Government, and that we will let eligible people know when it is time to get an autumn booster.

## NEW: Vaccine Product Updates

### 1. **NEW: Updated guidance on the off-label use of fractional doses of Comirnaty® 30 micrograms/dose Concentrate for Adults and Adolescents to vaccinate children aged 5 – 11 years**

At the time of JCVI's initial advice on vaccination of children aged 5-11 in a clinical risk group (issued 22<sup>nd</sup> December 2021), the licensed paediatric vaccine preparation to be used specifically (Comirnaty® 10 micrograms/dose Concentrate for Children 5 to 11 years) was not available. To facilitate timely vaccination of eligible children at risk, a resource document was published (see Clinical Bulletin 7<sup>th</sup> January 2022) to support clinicians who at the time, may have considered off-label use of fractional doses of Comirnaty 30 micrograms/dose Concentrate for Adults and Adolescents on an exception-only basis under a PSD.

Following well-established supplies of Comirnaty® 10 micrograms/dose Concentrate for Children 5 to 11 years in the programme, vaccination sites and staff are to note that this resource document is now being withdrawn, and all children aged 5 to 11 eligible for vaccination should receive their doses using Comirnaty® 10 micrograms/dose Concentrate for Children 5 to 11 years. Use of the licensed product specifically for this age group is consistent with longstanding recommendations on good practice in prescribing from the MHRA and GMC.

### 2. **NEW: Foundry Wastage Report has been updated to enable Spikevax® wastage to be recorded in full doses**

The Wastage Report on Foundry Site Stock Manager is being updated to enable sites to record Spikevax® operational and expiry waste in doses or vials, as opposed to just vials. This update will make it easier and quicker for sites to input any Spikevax® wastage they may occur, as well as helping to improve recording accuracy. This new update will come into effect on 26 May 2022.

When selecting the Moderna 10-dose option on the wastage report, you will now see that the unit box has two drop down options – doses or vials.

If you select doses you will need to record your wastage as a full dose equivalent even if the vial was used to give booster vaccinations.

Every booster dose is equal to 0.5 of a full dose when being reported in the Wastage Report.

*Examples of how to record Spikevax® wastage in doses (recording is in full doses only (10 doses per vial):*

If a site uses 1 booster dose out of 20 booster doses, then it would record 9.5 doses in the wastage report

If a site uses 5 booster doses out of 20 booster doses, then it would record 7.5 doses in the wastage report

If a site uses 10 booster doses out of 20 booster doses, then it would record 5 doses in the wastage report

A guide on to how to complete a stocktake report and a wastage report on Site Stock Manager is available on the Supply and Delivery Hub on FutureNHS ([here](#)).

## UPDATE: Cohort Eligibility and Operational Status

[This resource](#) has been reviewed. This week there have been no changes within the programme that need to be reflected in this resource.

## NEW: Vaccination and Covid-19 Outbreaks in Care Homes

If planning vaccinations in a care home with an outbreak, it may be helpful to link with the local health protection team or Director of Public Health who can provide advice about the request for access. Current advice is that vaccinators can now be given access to care homes, and the guidance clearly states that if there are any restrictions of staff movement and access (as part of an outbreak management plan), then this will have been requested and coordinated by the health protection teams or the Director of Public Health.

New guidance link [COVID-19 supplement to the infection prevention and control resource for adult social care - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

## NEW: Resources to encourage uptake

### 1. UPDATE: Updated NICE guideline on vaccine uptake in the general population

The National Institute for Health and Care Excellence (NICE) has updated the [guideline on vaccine uptake in the general population](#).

This guideline aims to increase the uptake of all vaccines provided on the [NHS routine UK immunisation schedule](#) by everyone who is eligible. It supports the aims of the [NHS Long Term Plan](#), which includes actions to improve immunisation coverage by GPs (including the changes to vaccinations and immunisations detailed in the [2021/2022](#) and [2022/23 GP contracts](#)) and support a narrowing of health inequalities.

### Recommendations

This guideline includes recommendations on:

- [service organisation](#)
- [identifying eligibility, giving vaccinations and recording vaccination status](#)
- [invitations, reminders and escalation of contact](#)

See visual summaries on the recommendations for:

- [identifying people eligible for vaccination and opportunistic vaccination](#)
- [vaccinations for young children and older people: invitations, reminders and escalation of contact](#)
- [vaccinations for pregnant women: invitations, reminders and escalation of contact](#)
- [vaccinations for school-aged children and young people: invitations, reminders and escalation of contact.](#)

The final guideline includes [recommendations for research](#). More detail can be found in the [supporting evidence](#). [Funding is available from the National Institute for Health and Care Research \(NIHR\)](#) for projects addressing NICE research recommendations.

## **2. NEW: open letter from NHS, charities, and community leaders to people with a weakened immune system**

NHS England, charities and community leaders have urged people aged 12 and over with a weakened immune system (for example due to a health condition or medical treatment) to get all of their doses of the Covid-19 vaccine, including a spring booster for maximum protection.

An [open letter](#) – signed by more than 40 charity and community groups including National Voices and Macmillan – reminds those eligible what they need and how they can book an appointment online or by calling 119. This will be supported by social media resources on NHS England social feeds. Please do help to amplify this message.

## **3. NEW: visual resources for improving uptake**

The Government have shared new visual material suitable for use in display, or social media, encouraging people to come forward for spring boosters. Please help to share these:

Hi Res assets: <https://23red.egnyte.com/dl/vhLEsoLnCa>

Packaged artwork for translations: <https://23red.egnyte.com/dl/RKkeNn7HIM>

## UPDATE: Updated Finance and Payments Guidance for Covid-19 and Flu covering the period April to September 2022

The Community Pharmacy-specific document is located on the FutureNHS website at this link below under Key Documents - Community Pharmacy:

[https://future.nhs.uk/P\\_C\\_N/view?objectId=24732112](https://future.nhs.uk/P_C_N/view?objectId=24732112)

The PCN-specific document is located on the FutureNHS website at this link, below, under Key Documents - General Practice:

[https://future.nhs.uk/P\\_C\\_N/view?objectId=24899536](https://future.nhs.uk/P_C_N/view?objectId=24899536)

## NEW: Spring Booster Information

### 1. NEW: Spring booster capacity and invite scheduling

We are now inviting people who are eligible for a spring booster slightly earlier via national call and recall following the below schedule:

w/c 16 May invites around 156 days (5 months) from prior dose

w/c 23 May invites around 141 days (4.5 months) from prior dose

w/c 30 May invites around 91 days (3 months) from prior dose

Through June weekly invites as people become eligible (those who are newly immunosuppressed, turn 75 years old and/or only reach 91 days since a prior dose during this period)

These invitations invite people to book on the national booking service (NBS) or to attend a walk-in site.

This means that you may see an increase in the number of people attending appointments or presenting at walk-in sites who are less than 182 days from their prior vaccination. As per the Green Book, the preference is for vaccination at around six months to maximise efficacy, however, if an individual attends either as a walk-in or via an NBS booked appointment they should receive their vaccination if they have reached 91 days from their prior booster dose. **They should not be turned away.**

Those sites operating local call and recall should now start to invite people in line with the above national call and recall schedule.

A minimum of 91 days should have passed since a prior COVID-19 vaccination dose before a spring booster dose is given to any eligible individual and those in the age-based group must be 75 by the day of vaccination – the PGDs and national protocols reflect both of these requirements.

Given the complexity with delivering vaccination in care homes, and the potential delays caused by outbreaks (including those other than COVID-19, e.g. Norovirus), the balance of benefit may lie in offering boosting early in care homes (providing there is at least three months from their last dose).

Operating flexibility outlined above was put in place to help delivery models conduct earlier visits, where appropriate and able to do so. Utilising this, a number of regions are focused on visiting all older adult care homes by the end of May.

June should then be used to visit any care homes/residents that couldn't be scheduled earlier as a result of outbreaks.

## **2. NEW: Updated Spring Booster assets**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) has updated assets available to help promote uptake of the Spring Booster. Available [here](#). Packaged artwork for translations is also available [here](#).

## **NEW: Ensuring retention of vaccination workforce summer toolkit**

Ahead of the Autumn booster campaign, the summer period presents an opportunity for sites to optimise upskilling and/or temporary redeployment of staff to support other NHS services.

The aim is to ensure the programme maintains sufficient workforce to be available at the time of surge vaccinations, whilst maintaining ongoing engagement and opportunities for staff during quiet periods.

Workforce and retentions leads should continue to prepare for increasing training and redeployment opportunities to cover July and August months.

A toolkit has been created in order to support and can be found [here](#).

## **NEW: Vaccination Site Reminders and Resources**

### **1. NEW: Notification of vaccination invites, prompts and reminders due this week**

The below notifications are due to arrive in the current period. 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.

- Evergreen offer 5-15  
Circa 37K letters to arrive on 23 May
- 2nd Dose prompts 5-15 At Risk including severely immunosuppressed  
Circa 3K emails and letters to arrive on 26 May and 28 May
- Boosters 12-15 At Risk including severely immunosuppressed  
Circa 6K emails and letters to arrive on 25 May and 27 May
- 2nd Dose prompts 16-17 At Risk including severely Immunosuppressed  
Circa 1K emails and letters to arrive on 26 May and 28 May
- 2nd Dose overdue 16+ reminders  
Circa 289K SMS and emails to arrive on 27 May and letters on 31 May
- Boosters 16+  
Circa 102K SMS and emails to arrive on 23 May and letters to arrive on 25 May
- 4th Dose invites for 16+ severely immunosuppressed  
Circa 1K emails and letters to arrive on 25 May and 27 May
- Boosters Reminders  
Circa 300K SMS and emails to arrive on 24 May and letters to arrive on 27 May

*Look ahead (may be subject to amendment):*

- Spring Boosters  
Circa 206K SMS and emails arrive across 30-31 May and letters on 1 June
- Spring Booster Reminder  
Circa 180-280K letters to arrive on 4 June

## **2. NEW: Estate Toolkit**

This [toolkit](#) is designed for the detained estate leadership to set out the workforce support available to enable the effective delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in detained estates.

This can be used as a practical guide that:

- Outlines the benefits of using the national protocol as the default legal mechanism for delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination
- Details the workforce support available from the Lead Employer
- Provides guidance on how detained estates can access and draw down from the national St John Ambulance (SJA) volunteer contract
- Establishes the minimum employment checks that the NHS workforce have undertaken
- Outlines security processes for workforce coming through the Lead Employer

## **3. UPDATE: LVS Toolkit**

A practical toolkit for Local Vaccination Services (LVS) settings on workforce and training is now available.

All LVS sites can access this updated toolkit on FutureNHS [here](#) which will provide the following information and more:

- workforce and training requirements for delivery of vaccination for the adult and child population
- defines the legal mechanisms of delivery available and proposed operating models
- guidance on accessing the national workforce support offer and draw down mechanism
- innovative approaches to optimise the workforce and streamline the vaccination pathway
- outline of workforce solutions enabling maximum flexibility to respond to all vaccination needs.

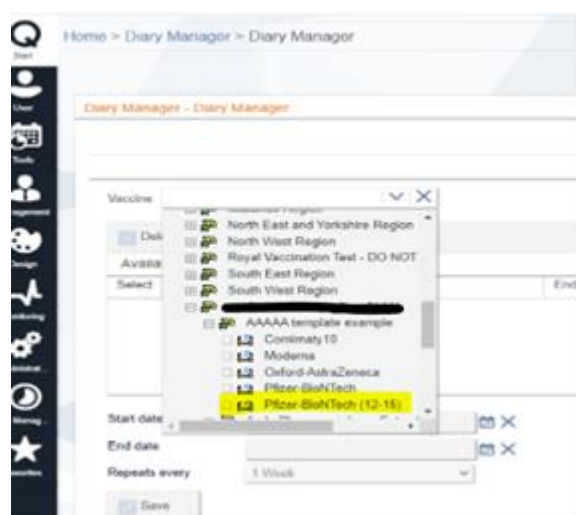
#### 4. REMINDER: Information vaccination sites with a '12-15' site in Q-Flow

The National Booking Service (NBS) team are currently working to migrate separate '12-15' vaccination sites in Q-Flow into a new service line/calendar within the primary site.

In the next couple of weeks Site Managers will find a new vaccine service in the diary manager called '*Pfizer- BioNTech (12-15)*' (see example in the image below).

After the vaccine service has moved, users of the [Check a vaccination service/Check In app](#) will only need to log into the primary site to check in appointments for all calendars and will no longer need to use the separate '12-15' site.

There is currently no action required from sites, but we will continue to provide you with updates in this Bulletin. 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](#)





## NEW: Vaccination Programme and Jubilee Bank Holiday considerations

### 1. REMINDER: Impact of Jubilee Bank Holiday on vaccine ordering and deliveries

Please be reminded there will be no deliveries of COVID-19 vaccine or vaccine linked consumables over the Jubilee Bank Holiday (Thursday 2 June and Friday 3 June).

Sites which require a vaccine delivery on either **Monday 6 June or Tuesday 7 June will need to place their vaccine order slightly earlier than usual next week**, to ensure orders can be processed on time.

Please see table below for details:

Delivery day	Replacement order cut-Off to cover warehouse closure over Bank Holiday
Monday 6 June	Tuesday 31 May (8am)
Tuesday 7 June	Wednesday 1 June (8am)

Please ensure your site has submitted a stocktake on Site Stock Manager within the previous 7 days for each vaccine type you plan to order before placing your order.

If your site does not have a current stocktake, you will be prevented from ordering until a new record has been submitted and it can take up to 2 hours for this to be registered by the system and allow an order to proceed.

Many thanks for your support with these temporary bank holiday changes.

### 2. NEW: Effective Cold Chain Management of COVID-19 vaccines - preparing for bank holidays

With the forthcoming double Bank Holiday weekend, we would encourage all sites to review their business continuity plans, ensuring robust plans to identify and manage with temperature excursions of stored vaccines in a timely manner. This is to safeguard the quality and efficacy of vaccines as well as to minimise the risk of vaccine wastage.

Vaccination sites can access useful guidance from the Specialist Pharmacy Service to support [Cold chain management for covid-19 vaccines](#). The [Green Book \(Chapter 3\)](#) also provides detailed guidance for maintaining the vaccine cold chain. This [self-audit tool](#) is available to help sites assess current practice and identify the improvements that may be required to meet the essential standards for effective cold chain management processes.

# General Resources and Updates

## 1. NEW: Webinars

### Vaccination programme shared learning community webinar

The next Learning Community webinar will take place Wednesday 1 June at 2:00pm to discuss 'Better Together – Unlocking the Power of Communities.' To register for the webinar, please visit the event [registration](#) page or see the [Improvement Hub calendar](#) for further details.

Previous Learning Community Webinars can be accessed on the [Improvement Hub](#).

If you have a suggestion for a future webinar subject, please email [c6.cag@nhs.net](mailto:c6.cag@nhs.net).

## 2. NEW: Case studies

The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Improvement Hub publishes case studies to share learning and improvement work across the programme. A summary of all case studies available on the Improvement Hub is available [here](#). A new case study discusses how Hounslow's roving model is supporting those who have yet to have the vaccine – [available here](#).

If you have an improvement or shared learning case study you would like to share, please email [c6.cag@nhs.net](mailto:c6.cag@nhs.net).

## 3. NEW: Case study on NHS futures – utilisation of workforce during low footfall

Bidborough House Vaccination Centre in London have used periods of low footfall to target vaccinations at the harder to reach populations whilst upskilling their workforce to conduct new activities.

To read more, please find case study [here](#)

## 4. REMINDER: Useful Links

### Communications Resources:

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

### Clinical Updates:

See the latest [clinical updates](#).

### Other Resources:

[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](mailto:P_C_N-manager@future.nhs.uk)

[COVID-19 Vaccine Equalities Connect and Exchange Hub](#) is a community of practice on the FutureNHS platform, where NHS, local authority, public and voluntary sector staff share ideas, evidence, resources, case studies and blueprints to increase vaccine uptake in all communities.

Members also have access to peer-to-peer support and a programme of regular 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 FutureNHS 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](mailto:PCNCP.workforceescalation@nhs.net)

[COVID-19 Vaccination Improvement Hub](#)

NHS England and NHS Improvement  
South West

