

# ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



*Issue 95: 8<sup>th</sup> July 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## **NEW: Post thaw expiry extensions - no longer applicable**

Site level post thaw expiry extensions for Spikevax or Cominarty 30 micrograms/dose Concentrate for Adults and Adolescents are no longer applicable. **Sites should not apply**

**changes to the post thaw expiry date for any of the COVID-19 vaccines.** All sites should **ONLY** refer to the post thaw expiry date that is detailed on the post thaw expiry label applied by the Specialist Pharmaceutical Logistics (SPL) partners.

See Item 2 in the [Clinical Bulletin dated 8 June](#) for more information on post thaw expiry labels and frozen shelf-life updates.

## **NEW: Update on Spikevax shelf-life for deliveries in the upcoming weeks**

Following on from the communication on Monday 27 June, regarding the delivery of shorter shelf-life Spikevax into vaccination sites this week (w/c 27 June). We can now confirm that all orders for Spikevax next week (w/c 4 July) will be fulfilled with stock that has a standard post thaw shelf-life of circa 4 weeks.

However, due to the need to continue utilising the stock remaining in UKHSA freezers that is set to expire by the beginning of August. It will be necessary to deliver slightly shorter shelf-life Spikevax again in the week commencing 11 July and the week commencing 18 July. No stock with less than 14 days shelf-life will be issued to sites during these two weeks. We will provide a further update regarding the week commencing 25 July, as soon as possible.

To mitigate wastage please plan your Spikevax vaccine orders for the next few weeks based on it having a shorter shelf-life than usual.

Please be reassured there is a significant volume of full life Spikevax available to the Programme, ready for delivery from late July onwards.

Thank you for your understanding as we work through the next few weeks.

## **NEW: Information about supplies of Spikevax in the short term**

As detailed in [this communication](#) from our EECL colleagues, sites may have received stock of Spikevax that has a shorter timeframe for use.

Sites are advised to be vigilant in relation to post thaw expiry dates, and to dispose of expired vaccine immediately.

## **NEW: Clinical Advice to Sites Vaccinating people aged 75 presenting after 1 July**

The following groups of people are now advised to wait until autumn for their next booster:

- People who turn 75 years old on or after 1 July 2022
- People who had a spring booster on or after 21 March 2022

The NHS will contact these patients when they need their next booster. Patients with a weakened immune system, at risk or considered unlikely to re-present for a vaccination in Autumn should be vaccinated.

## **NEW: 12 year olds in school year 7 and Comirnaty 10**

In the upcoming weeks, to align with updated guidance from JCVI, NBS will allocate Comirnaty10 (paediatric) appointments to eligible 12-year-olds in school year 7. This includes the scenario where someone in this age group has received a first dose of Comirnaty30.

NBS/Q-Flow users do not need to take any action but need to be aware of this change.

Please refer to your local / regional operational and clinical policies for any alternative arrangements should they be required.

## **NEW: Cohort eligibility and Operational Status**

[This resource](#) has been reviewed. Clarifications were added last week in relation to the Spring Booster Campaign, and operational updates were reflected for 5-11 year olds who may require a third primary dose.

The System letter regarding [Next Steps for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme](#) (Item 2 of the bulletin) has also been highlighted.

## **NEW: Spring Booster doses during July and August**

For individuals who were eligible for a Spring Booster up to 30 June, and present for vaccination in July or August, sites should ensure that a clinical discussion takes place at the point of care about the optimal timing of a booster dose prior to an autumn vaccination programme.

Individuals who have received a booster dose on or after 21 March, do not require a further booster dose before the Autumn campaign. To note that newly immunosuppressed individuals should continue to be offered vaccination through the summer period.

Further information about the completion of the Spring Booster Campaign and the vaccination offer to the end of August can be found in [this System letter](#) about the next steps for COVID-19 vaccination.

## **UPDATE: Notification of vaccination invites, prompts and reminders due this week (as of 4 July)**

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.

- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Prompts 5-15 Non-at risk  
215k letters to arrive 07 July
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Prompts 5-17 At risk including severely immunosuppressed  
Circa 3.7k e-mails on 07 July and letters on 09 July
- Boosters 16+  
73k SMS and email to arrive on 05 July and letters to arrive 06 July
- Evergreens 16+ Learning Disability  
<1k letters to arrive 06 July
- Spring Boosters for LD 16+ group  
Circa 3k letters to arrive 06 July
- Spring Boosters  
12k SMS and e-mail to arrive 04 July and letters to arrive 06 July
- Boosters 16+ and 12-15 At Risk including Severely Immunosuppressed  
Circa 36k SMS & e-mail on 07 July
- 16+ Booster 1st and 2nd reminders (15th May - 28th May 2nd reminders, 29th May - 11th June 1st reminders)  
Circa 108k SMS and e-mail to arrive 07 July & letters 11 July
- 12-15 (At Risk) Booster 1st and 2nd reminders (28th Jan - 28th May 1st reminders, 29th May - 11th June 1st reminders)  
Circa 31-42k SMS and e-mail to arrive 07 July and letters 11 July
- 4<sup>th</sup> Dose invites 12-15 Severely Immunosuppressed  
<0.1k e-mails to arrive 08 July and letters 12 July

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

- Spring Booster Reminder (Batches 263, 270)  
Circa 19k letters to arrive 13 July
- Spring Booster 2nd Reminder (batches 247, 255)  
< circa 75k SMS and e-mail to arrive 13 July and letters to arrive 16 July
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Dose Prompts 18+ and 16/17 Not at risk  
Circa 27k SMS to arrive 14 July and Letters (BE) to arrive 16 July

## **UPDATE: Medical Director Security: Automatic deactivation of dormant PoC system users - intended release date 7<sup>th</sup> July**

The Medical Director system will automatically de-activate any user account that has not accessed the system AND has not been associated with any vaccine for three months or longer.

This will be done on a weekly basis.

If your account has been de-activated and you require access to PoC again, you must contact your PoC system helpdesk, who will reactivate your account after performing the relevant security checks.

## NEW: Case Studies and Webinars

### 1. NEW: COVID-19 autumn planning webinar for GPs and Community Pharmacists

Following the publication on 30 June of the contracts for the autumn COVID-19 vaccination programme for general practice [here](#) and for community pharmacy [here](#), along with a [covering letter](#) here setting out the process for providers to sign up or express an interest in participating in the autumn programme, we held a webinar on 4 July to talk through the arrangements for the autumn and answer questions.

The recording of the event and slides are now available to view [here](#).

### 2. NEW: Making Every Contact Count (MECC) Webinar: Friday 8 July 11:30 – 13:00

On Friday 8 July 11:30 – 13:00, we will be holding an MECC webinar that will focus on delivering Blood Pressure Checks alongside COVID-19 vaccinations. To register for this event, please email: [england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net](mailto:england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net) by 09.30 on Friday 8 July.

Sites are reminded that there is a [MECC section](#) on the FutureNHS page, which brings together resources, tools and guidance to support implementation of MECC interventions at vaccination sites. This includes downloadable posters and leaflets as well as workforce support.

We are currently in the process of adding case studies around MECC interventions onto the FutureNHS page. If you have any examples of MECC interventions that you are delivering and/or any examples of good practice/innovations that you would like to showcase, please email these to: [england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net](mailto:england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net).

### 3. UPDATE: 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](#).

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)

### 4. UPDATE: Webinars

[Vaccination programme shared learning community webinar](#)

A recording of the learning community webinar held on 29 June ‘**Learning from COVID vaccination surge and planning for future surges**’ is available to [view](#), along with all previous Learning Community Webinars and supporting resources 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).

**Working with People and Communities –Training Opportunities:** The NHS and Local Authorities have conducted a large amount of engagement with citizens and communities to better understand how to support people to get their COVID vaccination. Engagement focused on how, when and where to better meet the needs of different communities.

This engagement has helped to support a reduction in existing health inequalities for people and communities already experiencing poor health outcomes, made worse by the pandemic. The partnership work undertaken with volunteers, community champions, community leaders, and community and voluntary sector groups, has shown how working with people can make a real change to the way health services can be designed. This has led to increased access, improved experience and outcomes for service users.

The NHSE Patient Participation Team are running regular webinars and online training for staff across all sectors, who want to know more about engaging with people and communities.

Webinars:

- [Working with people and communities to tackle racial inequalities](#): Thursday 7 July, 1pm – 2.30pm
- [Learning from co-production](#): Wednesday 20 July, 1pm – 2pm
- [An introduction to working with people and communities](#): Thursday 21 July, 2pm – 3pm

Training: 10 Steps to working with people and communities

This one-day course runs throughout the year - For more information and/or dates, please contact [england.ppve-learning@nhs.net](mailto:england.ppve-learning@nhs.net).

For more information on [Start with People](#), visit the NHS Futures workspace.

## NEW: Resources

### Ops Notes:

You can find all the latest operational notes on FutureNHS:

[LVS Operational Notes](#)  
[VC Operational Notes](#)

### 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.

### **Clinical Updates:**

See the latest [clinical updates](#).

### **Useful Links:**

[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 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](mailto:PCNCP.workforceescalation@nhs.net) and [COVID-19 Vaccination Improvement Hub](#).