

ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 101: 19th August 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.***

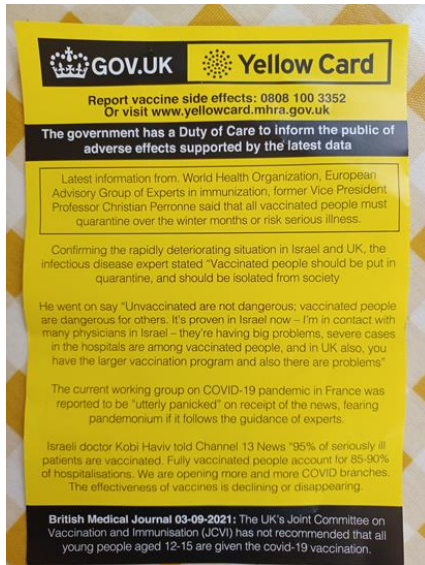
Please note that this service operates 9am-5pm Monday to Friday

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NEW: Security Awareness

We have been advised today via DHSC of two new fake leaflets which have begun circulating. If you receive any reports around these, please follow our usual security process - complete an SBAR and submit this to the RVOC. These reports help us build the National picture of behaviours.



NEW: Vaccs HH/VC/LVS: Phase 5 site readiness and vaccine assurance

Please find attached a word version of the new vaccine assurance checklist for your ease of use as referenced in RVOC 8895 and currently available only in PDF version on Futures.

NEW: Regional Care home and Housebound ambitions clarification

Please see below for clarification of the Regional Care home and Housebound ambitions for the Autumn Booster Programme:

All Older Adult Care homes complete by Sun 16 Oct.

All (age appropriate) Housebound complete by Sun 16 Oct.

This is 6 weeks from 5 Sept

The 40% in the first 2 weeks has been removed.

Co-administration with Flu should be achieved where possible, so if there may be less activity during w/c 5 Sept to achieve more co-administration later.

REMINDER: FOR RETURN BY 1700 Monday 22nd August 2022 Pop Up and Outreach Activity [including Student Vaccinations]

FOR RETURN BY 1700 Monday 22nd August 2022: WEEKLY OUTREACH/POP-UP ACTIVITY SUMMARY

PLEASE SUBMIT RETURNS TO england.swcovid19-voc1@nhs.net

Many thanks for your ongoing returns detailing pop-up/outreach activity to target unvaccinated clusters or underserved groups. This is a weekly return to monitor outreach activity and to feed into our evaluation.

Please note - in order to reduce the number of returns, we have now incorporated the return about activity to vaccinate students, so please include activity for 16-17s and students into this template, selecting the appropriate category from the drop-down menu.

Please include activity Mon-Sun of previous week, **and include pop-up/outreach activity planned for the next week** and RETURN BY 5pm MONDAY.

We have updated the template to reflect your feedback. To confirm:

- You do not need to include outreach to housebound or care homes
- Please include numbers receiving 1st dose/2nd dose/Boosters
- Ethnicity – please use the columns to indicate the primary ethnic groups you are vaccinating if possible if the pop-up is targeting a specific community

If you have any questions about the template then please contact england.swvaccineanalytics@nhs.net

FOR INFO - Autumn Allocations

Dear Colleagues,

Please see below the Pfizer allocations for the w/c 5, 12, 19, 26 Sep.

| | Pfizer |
|-----------------|--------|
| BSW | 870 |
| BNSSG | 870 |
| Cornwall | 720 |
| Devon | 1560 |
| Dorset | 870 |
| Gloucestershire | 630 |
| Somerset | 720 |
| CP | 2700 |

Please Note - These figures reflect a reduction in the Pfizer Max Cap as the Autumn Prog focusses on Moderna 214. The allocation balance between the systems has not changed.

There has also been a reduction in the Peads Pfizer Max Cap, in line with an anticipated drop in demand through the Autumn. However, please continue to allocate as required.

Autumn Plans – Following receipt of the RVOC 8888 returns, the National Team will upload the site allocations to Foundry on Fri 19 Aug. If you see supply plans for wc 5th / 12th / 19th / 26th Sep on Foundry, ***please do not do anything with those plans until the site level allocations have been completed by COP 19th.***

Allocation Returns – As noted in RVOC 8916, **there is a small window between CoP 19 – 23 Aug** when Moderna 214 allocations can be edited on Foundry before final lockdown on 23 Aug. If you have any amendments to your returns, I would like these to be finalised by **1100 on Tues 23 Aug**. Please highlight any emerging issues to me as soon as you identify them so I can discuss with the National Team prior to the final lockdown.

NEW: Autumn Allocations Timings/VC&HH Delivery day

Please see below for timings for the first couple of weeks for the Autumn Booster Programme and some associated actions.

1700 Wed 17 Aug: RVOC8888 returns

Fri 19 Aug: National Team update Foundry plans with allocations shown on RVOC8888

1700 Tue 23 Aug: Plan for w/c 5 Sept locked down for Moderna 214

1700 Tue 30 Aug: Plan for w/c 5 Sept locked down for Adult/Paediatric Pfizer

0800 Fri 2 Sept – 0800 Wed 7 Sept: Usual ordering cut offs apply

Therefore, **there is a small window between 19 – 23 Aug** when Moderna 214 allocations can be edited on Foundry before final lockdown on 23 Aug. As discussed previously, **please ensure that RVOC8888 is as accurate as possible to minimise changes.**

Action Required:

As discussed on Monday there is a possibility the VCs/HHs will have vaccine delivered via IMMFORM, so there **may** be the opportunity to change delivery days. Can we please ask that if a VC/HH has a requested change of delivery date (for example, if a VC has a delivery day on Friday and requires a delivery earlier in the week) **please include a comment in Column N for the site on the RVOC 8888 return** showing the requested delivery day. We'll work with the National Team to action.

NEW: C19 Vaccs: Clinical Update 17/08/22

7 August 2022 – The NHSE COVID-19 Vaccination Clinical Update

Contents:

- 1. Cohort Eligibility and Operational Status**
- 2. Children aged 12 in academic year 7**
- 3. Vaccine Assurance checklist**

4. **Updates to post-thaw expiry labels applied to thawed vaccine prior to delivery to sites**
5. **Resuscitation guidance for COVID-19**
6. **Revision of SPS SOPs and associated guidance for the autumn programme**
7. **Insights and experiences**
8. **Updated COVID-19 toolkit to support access in people experiencing homelessness**
9. **Case studies**
10. **Webinars**
11. **Updates from other areas of the programme**

1. Cohort Eligibility and Operational Status

Cohort eligibility and operational status has been reviewed. A note has been added to confirm that children aged 12 years old who are in academic year 7 should receive Comirnaty 10 micrograms/dose Concentrate, as per item 2 in this bulletin. This status will next be reviewed during the week commencing 29 August, therefore the validity period stated on the document covers a three weeks' timeframe.

2. Children aged 12 in academic Year 7

Earlier this year, JCVI announced a preference for Comirnaty 10 micrograms/dose Concentrate for individuals aged 12 years old in the same school year group as those aged 11 (this is Year 7 in England). The Green Book Chapter 14a was updated to reflect this, whilst offering some flexibility to complete a course with Comirnaty 30 micrograms/dose Concentrate where applicable.

As previously advised, the programme has been developing mechanisms to enable this recommendation to be implemented widely. From week commencing 15 August, the National Booking System (NBS) will allocate Comirnaty 10 micrograms/dose Concentrate appointments to eligible 12 year olds in academic Year 7. This will apply to all doses they will book, including for those 12 year olds who may have started the primary course with Comirnaty 30 micrograms/dose concentrate. NBS/Q-Flow users do not need to take any action but need to be aware of this change. Please note, warning messages will be updated in Point of Care to reflect this change.

Vaccinating teams are advised to now enact this preferred approach to vaccination for 12 year olds in Year 7 if they haven't already done so. In this context, a child remains in academic Year 7 until they start the new academic term for Year 8 (usually September). **Children aged 12 years old in academic Year 7 should now receive Comirnaty 10 micrograms/dose concentrate for their COVID-19 vaccination.**

The Patient Group Direction (PGD) and National Protocol for Comirnaty 10 micrograms/dose Concentrate already enable this vaccine to be administered to this cohort.

3. Vaccine Assurance Checklist

The Vaccine Assurance Checklist has been updated. The checklist provides a standardised series of questions for sites to consider and answer as part of site readiness activities, either ahead of a new campaign launch or when requesting use of a vaccine which they have not previously received and used. A new vaccine "Moderna mRNA (Spikevax) bivalent Omicron BA.1/Original 'wild-type' vaccine" will commence use by September 2022. All sites will need to complete this checklist ahead of going live for the autumn campaign. It forms part of the site readiness process, aligned to communications from the national and regional operational teams. Evidence may be required from sites to confirm readiness. This will be determined at regional level, working with ICB/ICS colleagues.

Completion of the checklist will indicate whether sites will be ready to safely deploy COVID-19 vaccines, with a focus on process and plans rather than end products. Clinical and Operational site leads will be responsible for ensuring that the overall governance, systems, and processes are safe, and that all preparations are completed ahead of receiving and using vaccines.

4. Updates to post-thaw expiry labels applied to thawed vaccine prior to delivery to sites

Following feedback from sites we have worked with our Specialist Pharmaceutical Logistics (SPLs) partners to make minor updates to improve the clarity and consistency of the post-thaw expiry labels that are applied to vaccine cartons that have been thawed prior to delivery to sites.

These updates have been made across all the COVID-19 vaccines that require thawing and across all currently available pack sizes. The updates to the post-thaw expiry labels include:

- Expiry time has been removed from labels
 - The post thaw expiry date for unpunctured vials stored at 2°C to 8°C does not need to be tracked to the hour, it can be rounded up to the end of that day.
- Post thaw expiry date is shown as follows across all vaccine types:
 - Post-thaw expiry: DD/MM/YYYY
- This sentence has been added to the bottom of each label to clearly identify that the product has been thawed and labelled by an SPL:
 - Thawed and thaw label applied by [an NHS logistics provider]

These new labels will be in place across all vaccine deliveries from Thursday 18 August 2022.

For more information about post-thaw expiry labels, see Item 2 of the [Clinical Bulletin dated 8 June](#).

5. Resuscitation Guidance for COVID-19

[Guidance for COVID-19 resuscitation](#) has been updated by the Resuscitation Council UK. The key statement focuses on those working in healthcare settings, advising that the use of FFP3 masks or respirators and eye protection is still recommended when performing chest compressions for patients with suspected or confirmed COVID-19. AGP PPE, FFP3 mask/respirator and eye protection, should be donned as swiftly as possible to avoid any delays in treatment.

6. Revision of SPS SOPs and associated guidance for the autumn programme

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) produced a set of detailed template Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) and Institutional Readiness documents for each of the vaccines when they were first made available under emergency provision ("Regulation 174"). These were updated and expanded over the following months to consider new vaccines and changes to vaccine information.

As the vaccines now have Conditional Marketing Authorisation, SPS have revised these resources, consolidating the original SOPs into resources common to all vaccines when possible, while retaining the vaccine-specific preparation SOPs. In addition, the Institutional Readiness documents and some of the explanatory text within the SOPs have been replaced with a series of web articles to enable users to understand the characteristics of each vaccine. The new pages and SOPs will be available [here](#), later this week (week commencing 15 August).

The purpose is to simplify the number of SOPs that sites need to review and maintain. Sites can continue to use their existing localized SOPs for the vaccines that they already have in use and plan to revise them as part of their regular review process.

7. Insights and experiences

Thank you to the teams and sites who have hosted a learning visit to share their insights, innovations, and best practice in specific areas such as supporting groups and communities where uptake is low, learning from surge, moving site and Making Every Contact Count. The learning from this great work is currently being collated into 'top tips' and will be published on FutureNHS soon. The challenges discussed at the visits have been highlighted within the national programme as we plan for autumn.

We are keen to talk to sites and teams who can share their experiences, insights, and successes in the following areas:

- Making Every Contact Count
- Co-administration of other vaccines
- Using the National Protocol
- Using volunteers from St John Ambulance and the Royal Voluntary Service.

We can host learning visits face-to-face at a site, or virtually via MS Teams. Together we will explore what you are currently doing and how, any perceived or experienced barriers and activity to tackle them, as well as your plans for the coming months. The outputs from these learning visits are very well received by national, regional and local teams. Please contact sarah.heneker1@nhs.net to support shared learning or to organise a visit.

8. Updated COVID-19 toolkit to support access in people experiencing homelessness

The Covid-19 vaccine can help people experiencing homelessness avoid severe illness and even death from the disease, but we know that uptake of vaccine has been low. Homeless link and Groundswell are members along with Pathway of the Homeless Health Consortium and together they have created a [COVID-19 vaccine uptake toolkit](#) to support persons experiencing homelessness.

9. 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](#).

New case studies recently published include:

- [Supporting pregnant women in North Central London](#)
- [Supporting people with adverse reactions or who are medically complex to safely access their COVID-19 vaccine](#)

For access to published case studies, please see the [Case study list](#).

10. Webinars

Vaccination programme shared learning community webinar

Further information is available on [FutureNHS](#), along with all previous learning community webinars and supporting resources on the [Improvement Hub](#).

11. Updates from other areas of the programme

[Latest LVS Updates](#)

[Latest Vaccination Centre Updates](#)

NEW: Workforce and Training Update - FLU

Please find the link below to futures for the Flu Immunisation Training. The recommendations set out the minimum standards of training for flu immunisers. All existing COVID-19 vaccinators will only need to complete sessions 1 and 2 of the Flu immunisation e-learning modules and pass the module assessments and competency assessment to deliver flu. The 3rd module relates to the immunisation of flu to children and whilst not mandatory is recommended to allow for the workforce to be fully skilled and be able to deployed to support flu across all age groups.

The link to the guidance can be found [here](#).

NEW: C19 Vaccs: Operational Bulletin 18/08/22

Please find this combined bulletin from the National Vaccination Deployment team, supporting Vaccination Centres (VC), Local Vaccination Services (LVS) and Hospital Hubs across the country to deliver the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme.

If there is anything you would like to hear more about, have any queries, or if you have content for this update, you can reach us by emailing:

Local Vaccination Services - england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net

Vaccination Centres - england.vaccinecentresgroupsupport@nhs.net

Hospital Hubs - C19vaccination.dephospital@nhs.net

To access links in this bulletin please join either the [Local Vaccination Services](#), [Vaccination Centres](#), or [Hospital Hubs \(HH\) - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#) FutureNHS Platform pages.

Cross Programme/ All Delivery Models update

1. System letter published on the autumn COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine programme

Following the updated JCVI guidance of 15 August on the autumn 2022 COVID-19 booster vaccination programme (available [here](#)), a system letter has been published outlining the next steps for the COVID-19 and flu programmes [read here: [Autumn COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine programme](#)].

2. Future vaccination strategy

We shared our intention to seek your views on a future vaccination and immunisation strategy in our [letter of 22 June 2022](#). A market engagement exercise has now been launched. This is an opportunity to share your views on what is working well and what could be improved to maximise uptake of vaccinations, reduce variation, and continue to protect people and their

families. We invite you to contribute on the future shape of vaccination services **before 30 September** via [the portal](#) using quote/tender 56405.

3. Timely vaccination record entry for COVID-19 vaccination events

This is a reminder that providers should ensure that the COVID-19 vaccination event is recorded on the PoC system on the same day that it is administered and that all mandatory fields are completed accurately. PoC systems are being updated to restrict entry to within 7 days of vaccination. If not entered within 7 days, the events should be captured and the entry requested through the VDRS missing record process published here - [Vaccine Data Resolution Service - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)

4. Point of Care system readiness for the autumn COVID-19 vaccination programme

Site leads are asked to take the following steps to ensure that their site is ready to use the Point of Care (PoC) system for the autumn COVID-19 vaccination programme. The following steps need to be taken **by all sites at least one week prior to administering vaccinations**, regardless of whether the site is paused, currently active or new. Please note that inactive accounts may have been deleted due to inactivity.

Step 1:

Site Leads should check they have access to the PoC system. You can check this by logging into your account to see if access is given.

Step 2:

If access is not granted, please contact vacineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk and ask for your account to be re-activated. The service desk will then advise on the process to follow (this may differ between PoC systems).

Once access is enabled, review your userbase and:

1. De-activate any user that you know will not be working for the Autumn COVID-19 Programme.
2. Identify all workers that have been previously de-activated who will be working in the autumn COVID-19 vaccination programme. Inform them they need to contact [email to: vacineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk](mailto:vacineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk) to re-activate their account. The service desk will then advise the process to follow (this may differ by PoC system).

Step 3:

If you have new staff at your site, superusers are able to create new users locally for the PoC system. It is advised that all users have NHS-approved email accounts. For a reminder of the procedure for an NHS-approved email, please see item 3 on the [Programme Bulletin 16 June](#). For any questions on the above, please email vacineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk

5. Anti-vaccination leaflet distribution in public venues

We have been made aware of leaflets found in a public changing room that on first sight appear to be official government information leaflets, however, are **anti-vaccination in nature**. The two leaflets found are available [here](#) (for information).

We are asking site leads to please make your staff aware of these leaflets, and ensure they know how to manage incidents involving them and to report any associated incidents via the SBAR reporting system.

These leaflets first started to circulate nationwide in September 2021. Their content remains unchanged from original copies. With the imminent rollout of the autumn COVID-19 booster vaccination programme, the distribution of these leaflets in public areas will likely increase and staff may be required to respond to questions from patients related to these leaflets.

6. Vaccine service desk hours of change

From Monday, 5th September the service hours of the Vaccination Service Desk will be changing from 6am – 10pm to 7am - 7pm, 7 days a week. Users and front-line staff can continue to email any queries and issues to the Vaccination Service Desk at any time. We recommend to use the templates provided on the FutureNHS platform that list questions/topics in the email to vaccineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk. Using the template provides information that will allow the desk to provide the correct response and engage the correct support team quicker, if required.

7. 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.

12-15 At Risk & 16+ Booster 1st and 2nd reminders
Circa 125k SMS and e-mails to arrive 16 August and letters 18 August
Evergreens 16+ Learning Disabilities
<100 letters to arrive 19 August
2nd Dose Prompts 5-17 At risk include Severely Immunosuppressed
Circa 3k e-mails to arrive on 17 August and letters 19 August

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

Boosters 16+ and 12-15 At Risk + Severely Immunosuppressed
Circa 37k SMS and e-mails to arrive 23 August and letters 24 August
Bespoke 1st dose reminders (Braille preference)
Circa <100 Letters to arrive 24 August
Bespoke [Pilot] Booster Reminders 16+ Severely Immunosuppressed in Urdu
73k-128k e-mails and letters to arrive 25 August
Evergreens 5+
Circa 62k letters to arrive 24 August
Boosters 16+ Learning Disability
Circa 300 letters to arrive 24 August
2nd Dose Prompts 18+ and 5-17 Not at risk
Circa 62k SMS to arrive 24 August and letters to arrive 27 August
2nd Dose overdue 16+ reminders (three times max)
Circa 38k SMS & e-mails to arrive 24 August and letters 27 August
12-15 (At Risk) & 16+ Booster 1st and 2nd reminders
Circa 100k SMS and e-mails to arrive 26 August
4th Dose Invites for 12+ Severely Immunosuppressed
Circa 300 e-mails to arrive 25 August

8. REMINDER: FutureNHS Page for raising vaccination Tech & Data issues

The Vaccination Service Desk have designed a [page on FutureNHS](#) to support front-line staff and members, reporting 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 using vaccineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk.

9. REMINDER: Outcomes4Health solution (Pinnacle) - site admin queries

We would like to remind our colleagues and front-line staff to contact their site admin for queries relating to setting permission profiles for staff working at their site and adding site users. Please encourage staff to visit this page for information required for users of the Outcomes4Health Solution (Pinnacle) : Help - Outcomes4Health and <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/vaccinations/training-and-onboarding>
If the site administrators have not received any contact from “Pinnacle health” (48 hours prior to Go Live), they should contact The Vaccination Service Desk:

Service Desk telephone: 0300 200 1000

Service Desk email: vaccineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk

Hours: Open 06:00-22:00 every day (from the 5th of September: 7:00am to 7:00pm)

Local Vaccination Services (LVS) Update

1. Publication of Community Pharmacy Flu Service Specification

The Community Pharmacy [Advanced Service Specification](#) for the Seasonal Flu Programme for 2022-23 has now been published. Where CPs have also been commissioned to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations and wish to co-administer COVID-19 and flu vaccines, they should do so in accordance with the phase 5 Community Pharmacy [COVID-19 Enhanced Service specification](#)

2. Publication of General Practice Influenza Service Specifications and Influenza Collaboration Agreement

The 2022-23 General Practice [Enhanced Service Specifications](#) for the Seasonal Flu Programmes have been published. GP Practices are asked to confirm **by 31 August** to their local commissioner that they wish to participate in the enhanced services. Some practices may wish to collaborate with other practices to deliver flu vaccinations and a template Influenza Collaboration Agreement has been provided.

PCN Groupings that wish to co-administer the COVID-19 and flu vaccines and/or synergistically deliver them should do so in accordance with the Seasonal Influenza ES and [phase 5 COVID-19 Enhanced Service](#) where a template for COVID-19 Collaboration Agreement is also available to support co-administration and synergistic delivery.

Useful links

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, [seasonal boosters](#), [5-15 year olds](#), [people with a weakened immune system](#) and [pregnant women](#).

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

[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 helps 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](#)

NEW: Housebound Referral Assurance

Following a National review of the time taken for patients who have contacted 119 to receive a vaccination if they are housebound, we have been asked to put some Regional assurance processes in place. Going forward, for any housebound referrals being sent to Systems, we will be including a Return date. Please ensure you have responded by this date to confirm one of the following four outcomes:

- A – Patient received vaccination ***Please provide date of vaccination***
- B – Not given; patient not eligible
- C – Not given; patient received elsewhere
- D – Other; please provide detail

NEW: JCVI advice

Please see link to the published JCVI guidance released on 15th August

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/jcvi-publishes-advice-on-covid-19-vaccines-for-autumn-booster-programme>