

ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 100: 12th 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

Contents:

- **NEW: C19 Vaccs: Shared Learning Platform volunteers**
- **NEW: Future NHS Shared Learning Platform – request for system / regional volunteers**
- **NEW: Autumn 2022 Rollout Security Webinar - 16th August 2022, 11:00-11:40**
- **NEW: MECC Task and Finish Group Agenda for 16th August**
- **NEW: C19 Vaccs: 3 month shelf-life update for Comirnaty® 10 when stored at ultra-low temperature**
- **NEW: Immunosuppressed Weekly Slide Pack SW**
- **NEW: C19 Vaccs: Updated planning assumptions for the Autumn programme**
- **NEW: Care Home Consent Guidance**
- **NEW: Cross Programme/ All Delivery Models update**
- **REMINDER: Upcoming Autumn 2022 Rollout Security Webinar – 16 August**
- **REMINDER: Notification of vaccination invites, prompts and reminders due this week**
- **NEW: Flu and co-administration training guidance**
- **NEW: Extension to ULT frozen expiry for Comirnaty 10microgram**
- **Useful links**

NEW: C19 Vaccs: Shared Learning Platform volunteers

Please see below from our Shared Learning colleagues. Please consider whether you would like to participate and please share this with your regional colleagues and SVOCs for their consideration. This will also be included in the Clinical Bulletin this week.

NEW: Future NHS Shared Learning Platform – request for system / regional volunteers

A project has started in the national team, to make it easier for people working in Systems, supporting the COVID-19 vaccination programme, to find information in [FutureNHS](#). We know from feedback that there are too many sites to navigate which is time consuming, too much duplication and it only works if you know where to look.

Work has begun to consolidate content into one shared learning platform. However, for this to succeed, we really need input and feedback from people working in Systems and Regions to help shape this.

An exciting opportunity has arisen for colleagues who would like to volunteer as super users for the shared learning platform. You will work with the National team to help design and promote a user-friendly learning platform tailored to system and regional needs. This will involve:

- participating in Teams meetings when required to understand the changes being implemented
- provide feedback on different aspects of the shared learning platform – i.e. what works well, improvements and alternative suggestions
- acting as champions in your region, promoting the use of the Shared Learning platform and enabling cross pollination of ideas across Systems and Regions.

We are looking for super-user coverage nationwide. Your input would be invaluable in supporting us to design and continuously improve the site.

If you would like to nominate colleagues, volunteer yourself or have any queries, please email england.swcovid19-voc1@nhs.net as soon as possible. **Closing Date: 5pm Thursday 18th August.**

NEW: Autumn 2022 Rollout Security Webinar - 16th August 2022, 11:00-11:40

We wanted to take this opportunity to highlight to you the detail of the Security webinar detail uploaded onto NHS Futures

here: <https://future.nhs.uk/connect.ti/CovidVaccinations/view?objectID=35153552> The Autumn 2022 rollout security webinar is a chance to confirm your security arrangements by understanding the current threats facing the UK Vaccination programme. The aim of the webinar is to reacquaint all sites with where to find security guidance, security updates, and

site-specific security advice. The webinar is taking place on Tuesday 16 August at 11am. Details and joining links are available on Futures.

NEW: MECC Task and Finish Group Agenda for 16th August

Please find attached the agenda for the MECC Task and Finish Group meeting on Tuesday 16th August at 11:30am. If you would like to add anything under any other business, please let us know by emailing england.swcovid19-voc1@nhs.net.

Please note this meeting has been extended to 2 hours. If you do not have the invite, please let us know and we will forward it to you.

We look forward to seeing you there.

NEW: C19 Vaccs: 3 month shelf-life update for Comirnaty® 10 when stored at ultra-low temperature

Additional 3 month shelf-life update (9 months to 12 months) for Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate when stored at ultra-low- temperature storage conditions (-90°C to -60°C)

Summary of key Information:

- Sites are not required to update any expiry dates on the carton or vials upon receipt of vaccine deliveries
- It is always the thawed expiry date at 2°C to 8°C as displayed on the post thaw label on the carton that must be adhered to by sites
- Sites may find that the expiry date on the post thaw carton label is later than the expiry date printed on the vial of vaccine. This will depend on when the vaccine is thawed for delivery
- The vaccine is safe to use until the expiry date on the post thaw label on the carton. 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 the day
- Sites must not update the shelf-life of any Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate vaccine already held in fridges on-site

A 12-month shelf-life for Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate when stored at ultra-low temperature conditions (-90 °C to -60 °C) has been authorised by the MHRA, this is an update to the previous 9-months frozen shelf-life.

The new (3 month) shelf-life update can also be applied retrospectively to batches, which have been stored appropriately before thawing (see table below). Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate vaccine is supplied thawed to all Covid-19 vaccination sites and if the update is applicable, it will have been applied by our Specialist Pharmaceutical Logistics (SPLs) partners prior to delivery to sites. **Sites do not need to take any further action upon receiving their delivery.**

Full details are in the letter from Pfizer-BioNTech, a copy of which has been sent with this communication or can be viewed [here](#).

This update is in addition to the 3-month frozen shelf-life increase approved in March for Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate stock held at ultra-low temperature storage conditions (-90 °C to -60 °C), which changed the shelf-life at that time from 6-months to 9-months.

As a result of this latest 3-month frozen shelf-life update, sites **may find** that the thawed expiry date at 2°C to 8°C on the post thaw carton label is later than the expiry date printed on the vial of vaccine. This will depend on when the vaccine is thawed for delivery. Please be assured that the vaccine is safe to use until the expiry date on the post thaw label on the carton.

Example of how the post-thaw expiry date may differ from the vial:

- The post thaw label on the carton could say Exp:10/09/2022, but the vial inside the carton might say Exp:05/2022.

Please note: It is always the thawed expiry date at 2°C to 8°C as displayed on the post thaw label on the carton that must be adhered to when using the vaccine. If this date has passed, the product has expired and must be disposed of immediately in line with your site's expired vaccine disposal procedure.

Sites are not permitted to update the shelf-life of any Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate vaccine already held on-site in fridges. The existing expiry date on the post thaw label on the carton must be followed.

The allowed 10-week storage and transportation at 2°C to 8°C remains unchanged and the product must be used within the 12-month extended frozen expiry date.

All vials in cartons with the original Pfizer-BioNTech label with an **expiry date beyond March 2023 will already reflect the 12-month shelf-life** and their shelf-life should not be extended further.

Updated expiry dates are shown below:

<u>Approved Shelf-Life at Manufacturing</u>	<u>Printed Expiry Date</u>		<u>Updated Expiry Date</u>
6 months	May 2022	→	November 2022 (for batch FP0362 only)
9 months	August 2022	→	November 2022
9 months	September 2022	→	December 2022
9 months	October 2022	→	January 2023
9 months	November 2022	→	February 2023
9 months	December 2022	→	March 2023

Footnote: All dates refer to the end of the calendar month.

NEW: Immunosuppressed Weekly Slide Pack SW

Please find attached this week's Immunosuppressed slide pack and accompanying data file.

NEW: C19 Vaccs: Updated planning assumptions for the Autumn programme

We wanted to provide you with the updated planning assumptions that systems should be using to prepare for the Autumn programme. We know that a huge amount of work has already taken place and we hope this is helpful to allow systems to continue to prepare for a strong Autumn programme.

We are very conscious it is important to provide what we consider to be appropriate planning assumptions for the NHS. However, please note that we are still awaiting final JCVI guidance and Ministerial review and as such these may be subject to change. A full system letter will follow once final guidance has been published.

Vaccine type: Advice regarding which vaccines to use will be provided by JCVI and is subject to subsequent ministerial decision.

Start date: We would like you, as part of this planning scenario, to prepare to begin the programme **w/c 5 September**, with visits to care homes and housebound starting in that week owing to their vulnerability. Systems should commence vaccination of wider cohorts from **w/c 12 September** in a number of regionally agreed sites, to target the initial supply and allow sites to maximise efficiency and operate 'full clinics'. We expect all sites to be actively vaccinating at full operational capacity **w/c 19 September**.

Site activation: We will prioritise activation of sites vaccinating care homes and housebound from w/c 5 September and high throughput sites that will operate from w/c 12 September, although all sites should be working towards activation as soon as possible.

Care homes: Consenting has already started in care homes to enable vaccination from w/c 5 September. We will ensure that sufficient supply is made available to vaccinate all care home residents and staff that become eligible during that week.

Supply: The national, regional and system allocation teams will work with sites to provide visibility of the first four weeks of vaccine delivery. If deliveries and authorisation progress as planned, we expect to confirm weekly site allocations for the first four weeks of the autumn campaign by 19 August. It is expected there will be no deliveries of Moderna 214 in w/c 29 Aug. Deliveries expected (subject to JCVI guidance) to commence w/c 5 Sept. Further information will follow with specific allocations.

Site Assurance: The assurance and training pathways have been decoupled to allow for rapid completion of site assurance by 29 August. For sites identified as vaccinating w/c 5 and 12 September, initial deliveries to site will be w/c 5 September so sites will need to order in line with the deadlines for their corresponding fixed delivery day (earliest orders need to be complete by 8am on 2 September). Regions will be seeking assurance from sites/ systems that training is complete in advance of any vaccine delivery.

NBS: Under this planning scenario, NBS will open from w/c 5 September (target 7 September) to coincide with the launch date and to allow clinics to be fully booked from w/c 12 September in those identified high throughput sites. Sites will need to start to upload calendars for the first four weeks of vaccinations from the 19 August, based on their current supply. The pace of invites will be tailored as far as possible to each region or system as required. We would expect in this planning assumption, in advance of go-live on 7 September, circa 3-4 million

NBS slots to be made available nationally over the first four weeks (w/c 12 September-w/c 4 October).

National Invites: Based on system feedback received, we will flex national invitations based on demand, available supply and equity of access across the country.

Cohort prioritisation. Systems should plan to prioritise in cohort order as a principle. However, to respond to system feedback, we are planning on the basis of systems having maximum cohort flexibility whilst seeking to ensure equity of vaccine provision and ensuring that vulnerable and underserved communities are not left behind. This is particularly intended to give flexibility to support co-administration with Flu. The key success criteria for the programme is to optimise vaccination of both Flu and COVID by early December. If demand exceeds supply or if supply is constrained nationally or locally then cohort order should be followed as for previous campaigns.

End date: Timeliness remains a key component of deployment to ensure optimal clinical protection ahead of winter. We do not expect planning for vaccination of eligible groups to extend beyond 11 December.

Reporting: We are reviewing the reporting requirements for sites to ensure that these are as proportionate as possible.

NEW: Care Home Consent Guidance

In preparation for the Autumn Booster Programme and Care Homes visits please find attached guidance regarding the consent process.

Given the timescales to commence a booster vaccination programme for care home residents, care home staff should start the consenting process next week in advance of the Autumn booster vaccination.

NEW: Cross Programme/ All Delivery Models update

1. **Making Every Contact Count (MECC) Webinar – Homelessness – Friday 19 August 11.30-1pm**

The next MECC webinar is scheduled for Friday 19 August between 11.30-13.00. The focus of this webinar will be on homelessness, with some speakers from London and the Solent who will describe the work they have done to reach people who are homeless and offer vaccinations and other interventions.

If you have not received an invite and would like to attend **please contact** england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net.

To find out more about the COVID-19 vaccination MECC programme, please see [FutureNHS MECC](#).

REMINDER: Upcoming Autumn 2022 Rollout Security Webinar – 16 August

An autumn 2022 rollout security webinar will be held on **16 August at 11.00** for 40 minutes. The aim of the webinar is to reacquaint all sites with where to find security guidance, security updates and site-specific security advice. It provides an opportunity to confirm your security arrangements and to hear about current security issues.

An agenda and link to join the webinar is available [here](#).

REMINDER: 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.

- Boosters 16+ and 12-15 At Risk and Severely Immunosuppressed - 48k SMS & e-mails to arrive 09 August and letters 10 August
- Evergreens 5+ excluding those with large print preference - 64k letters to arrive 11 August
- Evergreens 5+ only those with large print preference - 1k letters to arrive 11 August
- 2nd Dose Prompts 18+ and 16/17 Not at risk - Circa 8k SMS to arrive 10 August and letters 12 August
- Overdue 2nd Dose reminder for 12-15 (At Risk & Non-At Risk) + 5-11 At Risk - Circa 13k e-mails to arrive 10 August and letters 12 August
- 3rd Dose Prompts 5-11 Severely Immunosuppressed - Circa 150 letters to arrive 13 August
- 4th Dose invite for 12+ Severely Immunosuppressed - Circa 300 e-mails to arrive 10 August and letters 13 August

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

- 12-15 At Risk & 16+ Booster 1st and 2nd reminders (26th June - 9th July 2nd reminders, 10th July - 23rd July 1st reminders) - Circa 125k SMS and e-mails to arrive 16 August and letters 18 August

Support sessions for vaccination sites: Foundry, NBS and Q-Flow

We are holding a series of 30 minute drop-in sessions for new and existing sites delivering COVID-19 vaccinations, to support with using platforms such as Foundry, NBS and Q-Flow and to answer any specific questions users may have. Joining details are included below:

Platform	Dates / Times	Joining mechanism
Foundry	13:30 – 14:00, Monday, Wednesday and Friday in August and September August: 12 th , 15 th , 17 th , 19 th , 22 nd , 24 th , 26 th , 29 th , 31 st September: 2 nd , 5 th , 7 th , 9 th , 12 th , 14 th , 16 th , 19 th , 21 st , 23 rd	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting link: (Click here to join the meeting); • If users need to gain access to Foundry, please see the Foundry Master Access Guide here; • For further information, please contact england.vaccinedeployment@nhs.net
NBS and Q-Flow	13:30 – 14:00, Monday, Wednesday and Friday (ongoing)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Meeting link: (Click here to join the meeting) • For further information, please contact nbsonboarding@nhs.net

NEW: Flu and co-administration training guidance

Flu and co-administration training guidance is now out in NHS futures at the following link:

<https://future.nhs.uk/CovidVaccinations/viewdocument?docId=142723941&done=OBJChangesSaved>

NEW: Extension to ULT frozen expiry for Comirnaty 10microgram

There has been a 3 month extension to ULT frozen expiry for Comirnaty 10microgram.

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 page [case studies/FAQs](#) and recent guidance for [PCN groupings](#) and [community pharmacy](#).

Contact the national workforce team direct via PCNCP.workforceescalation@nhs.net.

[COVID-19 Vaccination Improvement Hub](#)