

ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 122: 6th January 2023

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: Foundry Helpdesk

The Vaccination Operational Data helpdesk has moved to a new email address to improve your experience and make sure you get a response faster.

The new email address is vaccination.operationaldata@england.nhs.uk where you can:

- Report any issues with Foundry products.
- Request user access.

NEW: Autumn Booster Doses for Individuals with an Incomplete Vaccination History

Over the coming weeks, eligible staff at vaccination sites who have a record of a booster dose at least 91 days prior, but with an apparent incomplete history of a primary course, will receive invitations for an autumn booster vaccination.

Individuals in this category who present to sites for vaccination should be reviewed and have their COVID-19 vaccination history confirmed to ensure the appropriate vaccine type is administered and dose recorded.

Staff are reminded that an incomplete vaccination history should not prevent receiving the relevant COVID-19 vaccine dose during the autumn / winter programme. The Green Book's advice on previous incomplete vaccination should be followed [here](#), noting that in some circumstances a patient specific direction may be required for administration.

NEW: Stock Management Guidance – Process for Recording Expired Stock on Foundry and Preparing for Site Closure/Pause

As the Autumn/Winter campaign moves into its final phase, please find below some guidance on managing vaccine stock in the case of a site closure or pausing and in cases where stock is reaching its thawed expiry.

Guidance for sites that are pausing or closing:

Where sites are planning to close it is essential that no COVID-19 vaccine stock becomes stranded. You are required to manage the closure process to ensure viable vaccine stock is either used prior to closure or transferred to an alternative active site in advance of your planned closure/pausing.

Any vaccine movement must be performed in accordance with the [policy](#) for transfer of COVID-19 vaccines between NHS Vaccination Sites, including recording on Foundry and using the Vaccine Transfer application before your site becomes inactive.

If you are moving vaccine stock to another site, all linked consumables must be sent with it, including patient information leaflets, combined needles and syringes and wipes.

In some circumstances the stock may need to be disposed of locally. For instance, where the stock is very close to its expiry and cannot be used by the site or by nearby sites before the expiry date. Stock will also need to be disposed when the stock is no longer viable. In such circumstances, standard procedures for local disposal should be followed, as well as the actions on Foundry detailed in the section below.

A final stocktake must then be carried out against each vaccine type you have held on-site, to confirm all vaccine balances as zero.

All the above actions must be completed prior to your site closing/pausing and being marked as inactive on Foundry.

Guidance for sites managing expired stock:

If your site has COVID-19 vaccine that has reached its thawed expiry date, this must be disposed of locally following your standard procedures. This action should be taken as soon as possible following expiry, to reduce clinical risk.

It is essential that you record any disposals in Site Stock Manager on Foundry. All fields should be accurately completed, including batch number, expiry date, quantity (in either doses or vials), category and reason. This will ensure that stock records for your site remain accurate and stock does not become unaccounted for. It will also support your region and system in allocating your site the right level of future supply to meet expected demand.

If you require any support with stock records, please see the [Site Stock Manager training pages](#) on FutureNHS.

Footnote: Pausing and hibernating are considered the same in this context.

UPDATE: Notification of vaccination invites, prompts and reminders

The notifications below are due to arrive in the w/c 2 January 2023 to w/c 9 January 2023. All reminders / invites going to all regions. Sites are asked to 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.

Cohort	Volume (national)	Date
Autumn Winter booster reminders	Circa 16k	03/01/2023 to 11/01/2023
4 th Dose invite for 12+ severely immunosuppressed	Circa 329k	05/01/2023 to 09/01/2023
2 nd Dose prompts 16+ LD	Circa 102k	09/01/2023
Autumn Winter booster invites	Circa 100k	11/01/2023
Autumn Winter boosters	Circa 17k	06/01/2023 to 11/01/2023

Look ahead (may be subject to amendment):

Cohort	Volume (national)	Date
Autumn Winter booster 2 nd reminders	Circa 65k	13/01/2023
Autumn Winter booster 2 nd reminders	Circa 78k	13/01/2023
2 nd Dose prompts 18+ and 5-17 not at risk	Circa 22.6k	11/01/2023 to 14/01/2023
2 nd Dose prompts 5-17 at risk include severely immunosuppressed	Circa 1.3k	11/01/2023 to 14/01/2023
Boosters 16+ LD	Circa 109k	18/01/2023

3 rd Dose Prompts 5-11 severely immunosuppressed	Circa 28k	18/01/2023
Boosters 16+ and 5-15 at risk + severely immunosuppressed	Circa 3.5k	10/01/2023 to 13/01/2023
Evergreens 1 st Dose	Circa 128k	19/01/2023
Evergreens 16+ LD	Circa 32k	19/01/2023

REMINDER: Have Your Say and Help Improve Point of Care Systems

NHS Digital would love to get your feedback and insights to help them improve Point of Care (POC) systems. This will enable them to understand the features that are important to you, any training and support required, system capabilities needed, and the information necessary for you to make a decision on what system to use in your organisation.

Interested in taking part?

- Please take the [POC Experience Survey](#) which should only take 10-15 minutes to complete.
- If you have any questions regarding this research, please contact: england.lvspoconboarding@nhs.net.
- Survey closing date is 13 January 2023

Useful Links

Ops Notes:

You can find all the latest operational notes on FutureNHS: [Operational notes](#)

Communications Resources:

The national Campaign Resource Centre now includes designed campaign resources for the current [public-facing winter campaign](#) as well as for encouraging uptake [among frontline staff](#).

You can find further scripts and communications resources on FutureNHS including toolkits on [seasonal flu and COVID vaccines](#), [for pharmacies on flu](#) plus a [poster](#), for [people with a weakened immune system](#) and [a communications pack for primary care](#) with template letters to adapt locally.

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.

[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.

[COVID-19 Vaccination Improvement Hub](#)

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