

ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 115: 11th November 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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UPDATE: COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy

Pease see updated information on the COVID-19 Hub for pregnancy. Key updates include:

- <https://www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/keeping-well/pregnancy-and-coronavirus/>
- <https://www.nhs.uk/pregnancy/keeping-well/pregnancy-breastfeeding-fertility-and-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination/>

UPDATE: Making Every Contact Count (MECC) – Call for Evidence/Evaluation

The deadline for this evaluation had been extended to 11 December 2022. Sites that have yet to participate are encouraged to take part, this includes sites that don't deliver MECC. Your support is valued in this important piece of work to enable the sharing of best practice to inform the approach for the future delivery of MECC, the aim of MECC to support the wider health and wellbeing of those coming forward for vaccination.

Further details on how to participate can be found on [FutureNHS](#) under the 'Call for Evidence exercise' 22/23. Thank you for all your help and support.

NEW: Advanced Notification of the Planned Christmas and New Year Vaccine Delivery Schedule

Please find below the planned vaccine delivery schedule covering the weeks commencing (w/c) 26 December 2022 and 2 January 2023.

Please Note: There will be no vaccine deliveries made between Monday 26 December and Monday 2 January inclusive.

1. Orders and deliveries over the festive period:

All sites will be able to order sufficient vaccine supplies with adequate thawed shelf-life for delivery in w/c 19 December to enable them to operate for 2 weeks, until their next delivery in w/c 2 January. **Sites will need to place their orders by 8am on the revised order cut-off day – see schedule below.**

The exception to the above is that **all Monday fixed delivery day sites** will need to order sufficient vaccine **by 8am on Friday 16 December**, for delivery on Monday 19 December, **to cover all planned operations for 3 weeks**. There will be no deliveries on Monday 2 January due to the bank holiday, with the next delivery for Monday sites taking place on 9 January.

Ordering for deliveries on **Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 January** will also be impacted by the New Year's day replacement bank holiday. Any site requiring a delivery on one of these days, will need to place their order earlier than usual by **8am on Thursday 29 December**. This earlier deadline is to ensure that the SPLs can upload the orders into their systems and successfully pick, process and prepare the vaccine in time to deliver on Tuesday 3 and Wednesday 4 January.

All sites must place their vaccine orders via the Ordering Platform before 8am on each cut-off day in order to guarantee delivery. It will not be possible to accommodate late orders.

Planned Christmas and New Year Vaccine Delivery Schedule:

Day	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed
Date	23-Dec	24-Dec	25-Dec	26-Dec	27-Dec	28-Dec	29-Dec	30-Dec	31-Dec	01-Jan	02-Jan	03-Jan	04-Jan
		No Deliveries	Christmas Day	Boxing Day	Bank Holiday	No Deliveries	No Deliveries	No Deliveries	No Deliveries	New Years	Bank Holiday		
Revised Delivery Day	N/A	N/A	N/A	Mon 19-Dec	Tue 20-Dec	Wed 21-Dec	Thu 22-Dec	Fri 23-Dec	N/A	N/A	Mon 19-Dec	N/A	N/A
Usual order cut-off				Fri 23-Dec	Fri 23-Dec	Mon 26-Dec	Tue 27-Dec	Wed 28-Dec			Fri 30-Dec	Fri 30-Dec	Mon 02-Jan
Revised order cut-off	N/A	N/A	N/A	Fri 8am 16-Dec	Fri 8am 16-Dec	Mon 8am 19-Dec	Tue 8am 20-Dec	Wed 8am 21-Dec	N/A	N/A	Fri 8am 16-Dec	Thurs 8am 29-Dec	Thurs 8am 29-Dec

- Please take note of these changes and be prepared to order accordingly.
- This schedule is intended as a vaccine delivery schedule only; all site level operational activity should continue to be planned as required.

2. Max Caps and Supply Volume:

The national team will work closely with the regional supply teams to ensure sufficient levels of max caps are set and released in a timely manner in December, aligned to each regions usual cadence, to allow sites to view available supply and plan clinics over festive period as appropriate. **Please note: there will be no supply plan or max caps set for w/c 26th December due to no deliveries taking place.**

Any site that requires additional volume over and above their initial allocated max cap, can request this through the Supply Planner in the usual way. The decision on whether this is granted will sit with each site's system and region.

NEW: Medicines Safety Week – How Patients and Healthcare Professionals Make Safety Work

This year's theme for [#MedSafetyWeek](#) is how patients and healthcare professionals make safety work. Patient safety is priority for the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and one of the most effective ways to gather real world safety data is by raising awareness of how the [Yellow Card](#) scheme helps to improve the safety of vaccines. The [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA) rigorously monitor the safety of all UK-approved vaccines. Reporting helps to identify new adverse reactions and gain more information about known effects. They publish a [weekly report on COVID-19 vaccines](#), summarising the information from the Yellow Card scheme and investigations that they carry out.

Here is a summary of actions you can take to support this process:

- Don't delay in reporting suspected adverse reactions to the [Yellow Card](#) scheme or via the Yellow Card app
- For each vaccine administered, accurately record in clinical health records details such as: the vaccine and product name, batch number, expiry date, the dose, number of vaccinations (if multiple), and site of administration
- Include the brand and batch number when reporting suspected adverse reactions to vaccines to the Yellow Card scheme

- For suspected reactions following booster doses of a COVID-19 vaccine, please provide details of any suspected reactions following previous COVID-19 vaccinations, including which vaccine was previously received
- Consider a discussion about common ‘side effects’ with your patient; you could talk about:
 - Noting the batch number and reading the product information that comes with the vaccine – it lists possible reactions and advises them on what to do, including reporting side effects (remember to issue relevant UKHSA leaflets such as [What to expect after vaccination](#) or [Guide to booster vaccination](#) as well as the vaccine Patient Information Leaflet)
 - The purpose of the Yellow Card scheme and the importance of reporting any suspected problems to help the safe use of vaccines for others
 - What to do if they do experience any suspected adverse reactions following vaccination. Explaining that they too can report on the [Yellow Card](#) scheme
- Talk to your colleagues about being vigilant for new or rare suspected reactions with vaccines or medicines and reporting them to the MHRA
- Use the [MHRA campaign toolkit](#) to promote the message that **every report counts**.

The [Green Book Chapter 14a](#) has information on COVID-19 vaccine safety and a section on reporting anaphylaxis and other allergic reactions. [UKHSA advise](#) that “any adverse reaction to a vaccine should be documented in the individual’s record and the individual’s GP should be informed”. Additionally, the Specialist Pharmacy Service have a dedicated page regarding [reporting suspected COVID-19 vaccine side effects](#) within the Vaccination Programme.

NEW: Call to Action for Regional Colleagues

Regional colleagues and ICBs should confirm that sites have agreed referral pathways and criteria with GPs, and that guidance on this has been shared with all GPs, including those not currently involved in the provision of COVID19 vaccination. Guidance is in the [Green Book](#).

As part of the introduction of the Nuvaxovid vaccine, sites who are administering Nuvaxovid are required to have one of the following:

- Advanced Life Support level resuscitation facilities
- A clear escalation plan with either an on-site resuscitation (“crash”) team (e.g.: in a hospital setting)
- Agreed arrangements in place to ensure that Ambulance support is readily available in the event of an emergency.

Sites are also required to have all of the following:

- Facilities for the patient to have a 30min observation period post vaccination
- A clinician or other health care practitioner with prescribing rights available on-site to assess individual needs and allergy history, to counsel, and to prescribe correct vaccines for patients
- The ability to safely manage multiple vaccines.

This information can be found here: [FutureNHS](#)

[The Nuvaxovid and Complex Clinic](#): This webinar was held on the 21 September 2022. It provides some further information about the Nuvoxavid pathway. Webinar slides, recording and FAQs have been uploaded to FutureNHS – available here:

[Webinar: Nuvaxovid and Complex Clinics - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform.](#)

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the team via england.vaccinecentresgroupsupport@nhs.net.

Training and Guidance Updates

1. Vaccination programme shared learning community webinar:

Recordings of previous learning community webinars are available to view, along with all supporting resources on the [Shared Learning Platform](#) including:

- I'm interested in Quality Improvement (QI). How do I get started? - [link](#)
- Enhancing Patient Safety – [link](#)

If you have a suggestion for a future webinar subject, please email c6.cag@nhs.net

2. The Nuvaxovid and Complex Clinic:

Webinar slides, recording and FAQs have been uploaded to FutureNHS – available:

[Webinar: Nuvaxovid and Complex Clinics - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)

If you have any questions, please get in touch with the team via england.vaccinecentresgroupsupport@nhs.net.

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 latest toolkits on [seasonal flu and COVID vaccines](#), [for pharmacies on flu](#) plus a [new 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.

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](#)

All C19 vaccination queries for national teams should be escalated via the SVOC/RVOC/NVOC process.

[COVID-19 Vaccination Improvement Hub](#)