

ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 120: 16th December 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: Autumn Boosters for Patients who are Immunosuppressed

There have been queries about whether patients who are immunosuppressed and received their autumn booster in September at the beginning of this seasonal campaign should receive a further dose after 91 days. In line with the Green Book advice: Someone in the eligible groups who has received a full course of primary vaccination (two or three doses) but has not received a booster before September 2022, may be given the autumn booster in the campaign

provided there is at least three months from the previous dose. Additional doses are not then required.

NEW: Health and Social Care Worker Seasonal Flu & COVID-19 Vaccinations

Health and care services face a challenging winter and, as we enter the colder months, we could face a twin threat from flu and COVID-19 with both viruses in greater circulation. Health or social care professionals are more likely to be exposed to both viruses, which can be dangerous and even life-threatening. Up to one in four healthcare professionals can get infected with the flu virus during a mild season and flu is now circulating at higher levels than recent seasons. This is why frontline professionals are among millions who can get a further dose of the COVID-19 booster and the flu vaccine this season. To help hard-working frontline professionals find out why they need these vaccines and how to get them, a seasonal vaccination toolkit has been updated to inform conversations about both vaccinations. It includes tailored messages for a wide range of professional groups and a host of creative content encouraging staff to get both vaccinations.

The updated content is available on the [Campaign Resource Centre](#) which includes material local sites can order. Please continue to share these resources with your networks.

REMINDER: COVID Vaccine Errors – Recognising the Importance of Checking a Patient’s Records – Especially for Which Dose Offered

The ICARS service receives a frequent number of incidents reported to them where a dose has been incorrectly administered or a person given a duplicate due to records not being checked before administration. Several examples have been recorded where a booster has been offered over what should have been a 1st or second dose. This can often occur where a patient is given a vaccine remotely –for example in a care home or their own residence. Many examples include elements where questions may have been asked of the patient (e.g. have you received any vaccines recently) and an answer given and so a vaccine offered on this basis, which later which did not match the records.

It is strongly recommended that all sites that deliver vaccines review their SOPs to ensure that checking the patient’s records is core to their administration processes, including where paper and electronic records need to be cross checked.

UPDATE: Updated Comirnaty 10 PGD v5.00 & Protocol v5.00

The Protocol and information has been uploaded to: [National protocol for Comirnaty® 10 microgram/dose COVID-19 mRNA vaccine - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

The PGD is available on: [Coronavirus » Patient Group Direction for Comirnaty® \(10micrograms/dose\) concentrate for children 5-11 years \(england.nhs.uk\)](#)

Both websites will be linked and documents will be available through NHS and UKHSA websites.

For information, the PGD and Protocol have been updated following the:

- JCVI recommendations for those who are eligible to be offered a COVID-19 booster vaccine in the autumn of 2022
- update of the SPC with significant change, the inclusion of booster dose

The PGD template requires organisational authorisation in line with HMR2012 before it is a legally valid PGD. It is advised that the UKHSA PGD template is organisationally authorised in accordance with local procedures before sharing with providers.

Authorising organisations must not alter, amend or add to the clinical content of this document (sections 4, 5 and 6); such action will invalidate the clinical sign-off with which it is provided. In addition authorising organisations must not alter section 3 'Characteristics of staff'. Only sections 2 and 7 can be completed within the editable fields.

UPDATE: Notification of Vaccination Invites, Prompts and Reminders Due This and Next Week

The below notifications are due to arrive in the current period. 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	Regional detail
Autumn Winter Boosters	22k	13/12/2022 to 17/12/2022	All regions
2 nd dose overdue reminder for 12+ and 5-11 at risk	12.3k	13/12/2022 to 17/12/2022	All regions
Autumn /winter booster HCW	Circa 0.94m	16/12/2022 to 21/12/2022	All regions
CaaS at Risk groups autumn/ winter reminders	Circa 1.76m	16/12/2022	All regions
5-15 (At Risk) & 16+ Booster 1st and 2nd reminders	Circa 36k	14/12/2022 to 17/12/2022	All regions
Autumn /winter booster reminders	Circa 21k	14/12/2022 to 17/12/2022	All regions
3 rd Dose prompts 5-11 severely immunosuppressed	Circa 27	21/12/2022	All regions
Evergreens 1 st dose	Circa 123k	22/12/2022	All regions

Look ahead (may be subject to amendment):

Cohort	Volume (national)	Date	Regional detail
2 nd Dose Prompts 18+ and 5-17 Not at risk	Circa 18.4k	20/12/2022 to 22/12/2022	All regions

2 nd Dose including immunosuppressed	Prompts 5-17	At risk severely			
			Circa 650k	20/12/2022 to 22/12/2022	All regions
Autumn / winter Boosters			Circa 4.3k	3/1/2023	All regions

NEW: Vaccinating At Risk or Special Groups

Vaccine stock levels are currently high. There are still individuals at risk who we would wish to receive vaccines that are not in frequent use (e.g. Comirnaty 10, Nuvaxovid etc.). It is reasonable to vaccinate them at the point of presentation, accepting that this might involve using just a small part of a multi-dose vial and a higher than previously accepted level of wastage. In this way, we hope to remove a barrier to these groups being vaccinated, who would otherwise have to be combined into vial size clinic appointments.

Surveys and Feedback

1. Staff Experience of Vaccine Services for People with a Learning Disability, Autistic People, Their Families and Carers:

NHS England are working to develop a more integrated vaccine care pathway for people with a learning disability and autistic people. We know that the experience of having a vaccination can be difficult for people with a learning disability, autistic people, their families and carers, and want to improve this. Staff who work across the vaccine care pathway are vital in helping to improve this. NHS England would like to hear from you about your experiences of working with people with a learning disability, autistic people, their families and carers in vaccination services.

Please help by completing this short survey [here](#) or scan the QR code below.



The survey will close on Wednesday 21st December 2022.

Thank you for your support with this important work to provide the best possible services for people with a learning disability, autistic people, their families and carers. Please do share this with colleagues that may be interested.

2. Sharing Insights with the National Team:

Thank you to the regional COVID-19 vaccination teams and sites who have hosted a learning visit and shared their experiences, insights, innovation, and best practice with colleagues in the national COVID-19 vaccination team. To date, the national team has undertaken 136 visits and the learning has been collated and published on the FutureNHS [Shared Learning Platform](#). There are new top tips available on working efficiently and learning from surge with recently added case studies to include [identifying patients who are immunosuppressed](#) and [making every contact count with people who are housebound](#). As the programme moves into a new phase, learning visits will be concluding in January.

However, for the final weeks, the national team would really like to speak to sites who can share their insights in:

- **Supporting people with learning disabilities.**
- **Making Every Contact Count.**

If you would like to share your great work with the national team in either of these areas, please contact sarah.heneker1@nhs.net to arrange a 30-minute call via MS Teams.

3. Have Your Say and Help Improve Point of Care Systems:

NHS Digital would love to get your feedback and insights to help improve Point of Care (POC) systems. This will help build an understanding of the features that are important to you, the training and support provided, and the features, capabilities, and information important in making a decision on what system to use in your organisation.

Interested in taking part? Please take this [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 - 13 January 2023.

Training, Webinars and Case Studies

1. Getting Started with Large Scale Change – January 2023:

This online course is designed to introduce you to the large scale change (LSC) model and develop your capability to apply LSC approaches, tools and techniques to help accelerate your transformational programmes. All five modules within the course will open on **9 January 2023** and can be undertaken at a pace to suit your personal circumstances until the closing date of **19 February 2023**. Registration details can be found here <https://www.england.nhs.uk/sustainableimprovement/leading-large-scale-change/getting-started/>.

2. Case Studies:

The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Shared Learning platform publishes case studies to share learning and improvement work across the programme. A summary of all case studies available is available [here](#). The latest case study to be published is about '[Somerset Integrated](#)

[Care System \(ICS\): Identifying Eligible Patients for the immunosuppressed Cohort](#)'. If you have a suggestion for an improvement or shared learning case study you would like to share, please email c6.cag@nhs.net.

3. Webinars:

The latest Learning Community '[Show and Tell webinar: Nuvaxovid Specialist Referral Pathways](#)' was held on Wednesday 7th December. A recording and supporting resources are available on the [Shared Learning Platform](#).

Toolkits

1. Retention toolkit for retaining COVID-19 workforce:

The [retention toolkit](#) has been updated and now includes system case studies illustrating creative approaches to developing a multi-skilled workforce. It also includes making time to build Integrated Care Partner (ICP) stakeholder relationships which have led to new opportunities in retaining staff. COVID-19 Workforce and Retention leads are advised to use the toolkit for further retention ideas to incorporate into their workforce plans for next year.

2. Making Every Contact Count (MECC) toolkit:

The [MECC \(Make Every Contact Count\) toolkit](#) has been updated to include nationally recommended MECC interventions to engage, train and upskill staff to help address local health population needs. Along with the retention toolkit, systems should also refer to this pack for developing retention plans

3. Working with People and Communities to Maximise COVID-19 Vaccination Uptake in Pregnancy:

These '[Pregnancy Insight top tips](#)' are based on a summary of insights and conversations with pregnant women, their partners, wider family members and maternity staff. They are set out under 9 key themes:

- Make it personal: Give people opportunities to discuss their situation with a trusted healthcare professional (preferably their midwife)
- Support Midwifery teams
- Work with Local Maternity Voice Partnerships
- Work with trusted voices including community groups/charities
- Listen and Learn: Experiences of women from black backgrounds
- Recognise the practical barriers pregnant women from poorer communities face
- Create hyper-local local interventions that are inclusive for pregnant women
- Removing Barriers (Reasonable adjustments) for pregnant women
- Making Every Contact Count for pregnant women

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 FutureNHS 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](#)