

ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 116: 18th 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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NEW: ULT freezers

The regional team would like to confirm that sites can power off Ultra Low Temperature (ULT) freezer units no longer in use for the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme. ULT storage capacity will not affect surge capability for supply of defrosted vaccine stock based on the current uptake demand. Sites should still confirm assurance and ensure equipment is reviewed in line with the manufacturers information and local procedures to prevent equipment operational failures.

To support local teams the Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) has recently updated their temperature monitoring for medicines resources available through this link.

The SPS Quality Assurance team please has also provided some helpful hints & tips to ensure appropriate equipment checks are in place:

- Always consult the manufacturer user manual and crosscheck the specific unit model reference number prior to powering off the unit.
- Complete a local health & safety risk assessment for staff involved in moving the unit. You may also need to have the estates team on standby to support the defrost.
- For reactivation you will need to allow the unit several hours to reach operating temperature, then monitor for 48 hours before use to ensure that the temperature is stable before it is used to store vaccines again.

The benefit of turning the freezer off is that you will save energy and oversight monitoring. The downside is that you do not have ongoing assurance that the freezer is working correctly i.e. if the freezer is somehow damaged in storage you won't know if there is a problem until you turn it on. Therefore it is critical a workable timeframe for operational reactivation is considered by the local site. The programme team will aim to provide a minimum 2 week notice period if equipment needs to be stood back up.

Recommendations for re mapping requirements is normally risk based, for example:

- More frequent if the equipment gets older
- If freezers use has changed
- If it has been moved
- If it has had technical issues etc
- Newer units, less than 2 years old that remain in situ may not necessarily require remapping when turned back on.

Temperature probes used to continuously monitor the unit need to be recalibrated every 12 months. Any probes not in use may need to be flagged as part of the service contract and will still need to comply with local arrangements.

For a new freezer that has had no issues / remained in situ remapping is usually every 2 years.

For the temperature probes used to measure the temperature of the freezer/equipment, these should be recalibrated every 12 months.

Please get in touch via RVOC (england.swcovid19-voc1@nhs.net) if you have any further questions regarding the above information.

NEW: Removing Dose 1 & Dose 2 Moderna Appointments on the National Booking Service

The National Booking Service will shortly be removing site manager ability to select the Dose 1 or Dose 2 appointment type for Moderna calendars in Q-Flow Diary Manager (see screenshot below). This change is to support the phasing out of the existing Moderna Spikevax Original vaccine.

At the point of implementation, any existing booked Moderna appointments will not be affected by the change. For new booking journeys, people will not be able to start a Moderna Spikevax Original primary course. People who have already received a Dose 1 of Moderna will be able to book a Dose 2 of Pfizer to complete their primary course.

NEW: New Record Template for EMIS/Outcomes4Health Users

Outcomes4Health have released a new template to record COVID and Flu vaccinations as a single record when these vaccines are administered at the same time.

This new template should only be used to record a dual vaccination event i.e. COVID and Flu vaccinations administered at the same appointment, if COVID or Flu vaccinations are being administered in isolation, the stand-alone templates for these services should be used.

NEW: Vaccinating 12-year-olds

We are aware of a few incorrect cases where children who are 12 years-old and in Year 8 have been booking NBS appointments in the Comirnaty10 calendar. We are working to resolve the issues. If this happens at your site, please follow [Green Book guidance](#) and vaccinate accordingly.

REMINDER: Foundry Data Latency Update

The Foundry data latency reports will be updated soon to make it easier for sites, systems, and regions to track data latency and identify sites with greater data latency. The link to Foundry is [here](#).

How is data latency calculated in Foundry?

Foundry receives a daily feed of data from DPS (via NIMS) which comes directly from the daily data sent from Point Of Care (PoC) systems to DPS. Data latency in Foundry is then calculated as the difference in time between when a vaccination was administered and when it was **first recorded on the Point of Care system** (and not the GP system).

Why is data latency important?

Payment claims for vaccinations entered into the PoC system **more than 7 days after administration will not be processed** i.e. the site will not receive payment for these administered vaccines. Please note, if a field is incorrect on a COVID-19 vaccination event, amendments can be made to the record without impacting data latency or payment to the site.

Reminder

In accordance with the Service Specifications, providers of COVID-19 vaccinations must adhere to defined standards of record keeping ensuring that the vaccination event is recorded on the same day that it is administered within the Point of Care (PoC) system.

Generally, if sites would like to escalate an issue, standard BAU routes for escalation and disputes should be followed as required.

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.

Cohort	Volume (national)	Date	Regional detail
Autumn Winter Boosters	78.5k	15/11 to 18/11	All regions
Autumn Winter Boosters - Learning Disability completed primary dose only before 15/08 (excluding those in LD batches post 4th Sept)	3k	18/11	All regions
Autumn Winter booster's 2 nd Reminders	Circa 560k	19/11	All regions
2 nd Dose overdue reminder for 12+ 5-11 at Risk	Circa 18.1K	18/11	All regions
5-15 At Risk, 16+ Booster (1 st and 2 nd Reminders)	Circa 80k	18/11	All regions
Evergreens 1 st Dose	Circa 136k	24/11	All regions

Look ahead (may be subject to amendment):

Cohort	Volume (national)	Date	Regional detail
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3 rd Dose Prompts 5-11 SIS	C39	26/11	All regions
Autumn Winter Booster DMS postcodes	18k	22/11 to 26/11	All regions
Autumn Winter Boosters reminder	Circa 556k	28/11 to 01/12	All regions
2 nd Dose Prompts for 18+ and 5-17 Not at risk	Circa 29k	24/11 to 28/11	All regions
Boosters for 16+ and 5-15 At risk severely immunosuppressed	Circa 17.3k	23/11 to 26/11	All regions
2 nd Dose Prompt 5-17 At risk Including severely immunosuppressed	Circa 587	23/11 to 26/11	All regions
Autumn winter booster 2 nd Reminders	Circa 59k	28/11	All regions

NEW: World Antimicrobial Awareness Week – Activities and Resources

Welcome to World Antimicrobial Awareness Week (WAAW). WAAW runs from 18-24 November and is an opportunity to focus antimicrobial stewardship activity and share learning in order to keep antibiotics working. Please see attached a range of resources and events to engage with throughout WAAW 2022.

Also attached are details of Shared Learning Webinars taking place in the South West, with details of how to join.

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.