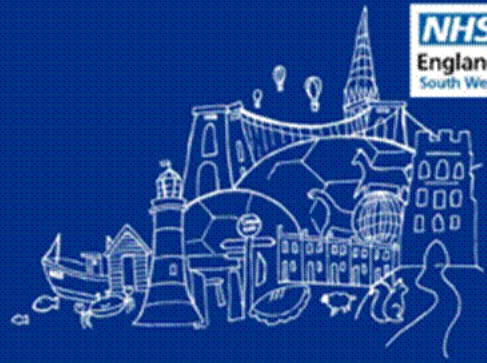


ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 117: 25th 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: Available Pack Down Options for Comirnaty® 30 Concentrate and Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate vaccines

Following a review of vaccine requirements for the next few months, the supply of the 30 dose (5 vial) seed packs of Comirnaty® 30 Concentrate will be reinstated and 20 dose (2 vial) mini packs of Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate will be introduced.

This decision reflects the current usage of these vaccine types and will ensure the supply chain is offering sites the most suitable pack size to meet demand and minimise wastage.

Both vaccine types will also continue to be available in their current pack sizes:

- Comirnaty® 30 Concentrate 1,170 dose (195 vial) pizza box packs and 90 dose (15 vial) baby pack.
- Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate 100 doses (10 vials) pack.

Comirnaty® 30 Concentrate seed packs will be available for sites to order/request in the week commencing 28 November Supply Plan as per your regions/systems standard cadence with the **first deliveries to sites possible from Monday 28 November onwards**, dependant on fixed delivery days. See table 2 below for available multiples.

Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate mini packs will be available for sites to order/request in the week commencing 12 December Supply Plan as per your regions/systems standard cadence with the **first deliveries to sites from Monday 12 December onwards**, dependant on fixed delivery days. See table 2 below for available multiples.

Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate Shorter thawed shelf-life:

The introduction of smaller packs of Comirnaty® 10, should also better support sites in managing the current shorter shelf-life of this product. This limited shelf-life is due to the batches that are available to the Programme nearing their frozen expiry date. This limited shelf-life prevents our Specialist Pharmaceutical Logistics providers (SPLs) being able to apply the full thawed shelf-life, as the thawed shelf-life cannot exceed the frozen shelf-life.

As a result, all deliveries of this vaccine type up to and including 16 January 2023 will have a thawed shelf-life of between 5 weeks and 14 days. The exact shelf-life will depend on when the product is delivered into your site by the SPLs. No stock with less than 14 days thawed shelf-life will be delivered.

Whilst it is appreciated that a reduced thawed shelf-life is not optimal for sites, the ‘first in’, ‘first out’ principles of good stock management must be followed in order to maximise usage of this product and to minimise wastage.

Table 1: Current available batches of Comirnaty® 10 frozen expiry dates vs supply timeline:

	Batch Number	Frozen expiry date	Delivered into sites from	Delivered into sites until
Comirnaty® 10	FW5101	31/12/2022	10/11/2022	16/12/2022
	FX5101	31/01/2023	19/12/2022	16/01/2023

All sites are requested to plan their Comirnaty®10 orders until mid-January 2023, based on supplies having a limited shelf-life. The smaller 20 dose pack will enable sites to order a considerably lower minimum order quantity more closely aligned to demand.

From the 17 January 2023, a new batch of Comirnaty® 10 with a longer frozen shelf-life will be released, enabling us to provide sites with the full thawed shelf-life (circa 8-10 weeks) again for a period.

Linked Vaccine Consumables:

The linked vaccine consumables for the seed pack of Comirnaty® 30 and the mini pack of Comirnaty 10® will continue to be supplied with 100 combined administration needles and syringes (CNS) and 1 pack of Steret Wipes (100 individual wipes). Comirnaty® 30 will also come with 100 dilution CNS, 100 Sodium Chloride Diluent 5ml ampoules.

This oversupply is due to the size of the packs currently made available to the vaccine programme by UKHSA. To mitigate this oversupply, the on/off system will continue to operate, where consumables are sent with the first order but not with subsequent orders until the equivalent amount of vaccine has been issued.

Your site can also deselect the vaccine linked consumables bundle when placing a vaccine order if you have surplus supply.

Further information:

Table 2: Order Quantities for Comirnaty® 30 Concentrate and Comirnaty® 10 Concentrate:

	Doses per pack	Vials per pack	Maximum multiples that can be ordered before the request is rounded up*
Available pack sizes for Comirnaty® 30 microgram/dose for adults and adolescents	Full pack 1,170	195	N/A
	Baby pack 90	15	900 doses (10 packs), after which a full pack will be issued
	Seed pack 30	5	60 doses (2 packs), after which multiples of 90 doses will be issued
Available pack sizes for Comirnaty® 10 microgram/dose for Children 5-11	Full pack 100	10	N/A
	Mini pack 20	2	60 doses (3 packs), after which a full pack will be issued

** This maximum also applies to each multiple after a full pack size has been reached. e.g., a site ordering 2,520 doses of Comirnaty® 30 Concentrate would receive 2 full boxes plus 2 baby packs (1,170+1,170+ 90+90).*

If the level of packed down volume requested across the programme exceeds our SPLs overall capacity (there is a daily limit on the number of packs that can be created), the national team will automatically increase pack sizes where necessary. At all times we will try to provide a volume as close to original order request as possible and sites won't receive less than ordered.

NEW: Alternative Seasonal Booster Web Page (Nuvaxovid)

A page has been published on the NHS England website outlining which seasonal boosters are being offered, who may need an alternative to common vaccine types and how to access a referral to specialist clinics in those rare cases.

Referrals to specialist clinics are unlikely to be necessary for those with mild or common allergies following vaccination, or for those who have previously tolerated an mRNA vaccine. Many people who were advised to have an AstraZeneca vaccine can safely receive mRNA vaccines. It is estimated that less than 1% of people will need a Nuvaxovid vaccine. If a recent clinical assessment confirms that an individual cannot have one of the common vaccine types, GP practices and vaccination centres should refer them to a complex clinic.

You can view the full advice to be given to members of the public at <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/covid-19-vaccination-programme/alternative-seasonal-booster/>.

Please also remind yourselves of operational referral processes by referring to content from this recent webinar:

[Nuvaxovid & Complex Clinics Webinar - 21 September 2022 - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)

NEW: Government Winter Vaccine Campaign Resources

Please find the most recent winter vaccine campaign resources on the DHSC campaign resource website:

- Full [Government campaign resources](#)
- Videos: [Protect yourself from winter viruses](#) and [vaccinations for people with long-term health conditions](#)
- Static visuals: [Boost your immunity](#)
- Winter Vaccinations Public Facing Campaign

NEW: Change in Planning Authority for Temporary Vaccination Sites

The temporary legislation that allowed the covid-19 vaccination programme to utilise sites not previously holding the Use Class status of D1 Health use ceases on 31 December 2022. This legislation allowed the vaccination programme to bring in temporary units, use non health estate or undertake minor building works without the need for Planning Authority Change of Use or planning approval. These temporary arrangements were only enacted in response to the pandemic. A note providing additional information is attached to this communication

A subsequent change to the Use Classes has since taken place nationally and Health now falls under **Class E - Commercial, Business and Service**.

Due to these temporary arrangements ending there is now an urgent need to review the sites currently offering vaccinations, to provide assurance that they are operating with the necessary

Use Class and have necessary planning approval in place, if they are intending to deliver vaccination services in these premises post 31 December 2022.

The sites most at risk of being affected by the lifting of the temporary planning rights and change of use class are:

- **Learning and non-residential institutions (now [Use Class F1](#))** – such as schools, colleges etc., galleries, museums, public libraries, public halls or exhibition halls and churches etc.
- **Local community uses (now [Use Class F2](#))** – such as local community assets, a hall or meeting place for the principal use of the local community, **outdoor** sport or recreation locations, swimming pools or skating rinks

It is expected that most landlords may not be willing to formally apply for change of use of the building to a Class E. This is due to the restrictions of leasing that this may place on the site in the future, and also the risk of not being supported to change the Class Use back at any point.

In summary this will affect all our commercial estate usage across all delivery models including satellite sites and the use of portacabins, marques and artics where we intend to retain an ongoing presence beyond 31 December 2022, even if this is a carpark. Where services are operating from within NHS estate, GP surgeries, Pharmacies, Hospitals and other Health-related premises, no action is required as they will already hold the appropriate Planning approval.

Where additional physical capacity was added to health estate during the pandemic ie. Portacabins, and this is intended to remain in situ from 1 January 2023 this will need planning approval.

Where we are using commercial estate for pop-ups as the temporary tenant then the change of legislation will not apply. If however health are the only tenant of the facility and blocking usage by other tenants then it could be deemed that the NHS is fundamentally changing the purpose of the facility and a change of use planning may be required by the Planning Authority. Where we are giving notice to the landlord to terminate a licence and are working to decommission the site early in the new year then it is anticipated that the Planning Authority will waive the regulations, however this cannot be assumed, and a discussion is recommended.

Provider lead action required:

- Check with all commercial land usage landlords as to whether their site falls under Class E – Commercial, Business and Service.
- If the landlord cannot advice then a conversation is required with the locations Local Authority Planning department. Each planning authority is likely to take a view on a case by case basis but as an NHS organisation we must ensure that we can evidence compliance within current legislation and land we occupy falls under Class E usage from 1 January 2023.
- If you would like to discuss individual cases or would like the regional team to broker the conversations with LA Planners then please contact sara.brown1@nhs.net.

- If a change of use is required by the planning authority or planning permission is required the Landlord will need to make this application. As mentioned above we can expect that most landlords will not wish to do this and will be looking for local health services to fund the application if it does. It is however the Provider/Tenants responsibility to ensure that any site it plans to deliver vaccinations in from 1 January 2023 is compliant with current legislation.

Following receipt of the systems Jan-March planning return (RVOC 9662) the region will seek assurance via an RVOC return against all commercial estates planned from January.

REMINDER: Foundry Drop-in Sessions Extended to December

A series of 30-minute drop-in session will be held 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, Wednesday in November and December 20 and 23 November 7, 14 and 21 December	<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

UPDATE: Notification of Vaccination Invites, Prompts and Reminders Due This 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
3D Prompts 5-11 SIS	52	26/11	All regions
2D Prompts 16+ LD	53	26/11	All regions
Boosters 16+ and 5-15 At Risk + SIS	Circa 17k	28/11	All regions
AW Booster 2 nd reminders	Circa 59K	28/11	All regions
2D Prompts 18+ and 5-17 Not at risk	Circa 29k	24/11 & 28/11	All regions
AW Booster Reminders	Circa 624k	25/11-2/12	All regions
2D Prompts 5-17 At risk include SI/S	Circa 587	25/11 & 30/11	All regions

Look ahead (may be subject to amendment):

Cohort	Volume (national)	Date	Regional detail
AW Boosters	Circa 30k	29/11 – 3/12	All regions
Translated AW Booster 2 nd reminders	Circa 180k	3/12	All regions
Autumn Winter Boosters 2 nd reminder	Circa 1.1m	5/12 to 7/12	All regions
5-15 (At Risk) & 16+ Booster 1st and 2nd reminders	Circa 54k	5/12 to 7/12	All regions
Autumn winter boosters LD	Circa 3k	7/12	All regions

NEW: Supporting Hospital Trusts – Best Practice Case Studies and newly published FAQ's

The Hospital Trusts national team have been working with a number of Trusts with high uptake amongst their healthcare workers of Covid19 and Flu vaccinations to understand and record their experiences. A library of best practice case studies is being built to support others in improving uptake and we would encourage you to view these on the NHS futures page [here](#). If you have any examples of case studies to share, please email england.vaccinecentresgroupsupport@nhs.net in the first instance.

a selection of frequently asked questions has also been published, available to view [here](#), which also take into account the questions asked at the webinar in October.

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](#)