

# ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 127: 3rd March 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](mailto:england.swicars@nhs.net).*

*Please note that this service operates 9am-5pm Monday to Friday*

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## REMINDER: Closure of Vaccine Service Desk (VSD)

Due to a significant drop in volume of queries, the COVID-19 vaccination programme has closed the Vaccine Service Desk (VSD). IT queries should now be raised directly to the IT supplier, as detailed below.

MYS – Pharmacies	<a href="mailto:nhsbsa.pharmacysupport@nhs.net">nhsbsa.pharmacysupport@nhs.net</a>
MYS – PCN/GP	<a href="mailto:nhsbsa.gpsupport@nhs.net">nhsbsa.gpsupport@nhs.net</a>
Pinnacle	<a href="mailto:helpdesk@emishealth.com">helpdesk@emishealth.com</a>
NIVS	<a href="mailto:NIVS@england.nhs.uk">NIVS@england.nhs.uk</a>
NIMS	<a href="mailto:scwcsu.vaccineprogramme@nhs.net">scwcsu.vaccineprogramme@nhs.net</a>
Foundry	<a href="mailto:Foundry.Support@england.nhs.uk">Foundry.Support@england.nhs.uk</a>
Medical Director	<a href="mailto:notifyus@medicaldirector.com">notifyus@medicaldirector.com</a>
Sonar	<a href="mailto:helpdesk@sonarinformatics.com">helpdesk@sonarinformatics.com</a>
Eva Health	<a href="mailto:support@evahealth.co.uk">support@evahealth.co.uk</a>

Note: The contact email for Pinnacle has changed from the one supplied last week.

When you contact one of the PoC suppliers with a query, you will need to provide them with an agreed set of information. This is called the 'Minimum Data Set'. This is the same information that you would previously have needed to provide the VSD. The Minimum Data Sets and other useful guidance are available [here](#).

If your query is not resolved within three working days, or if you have queries relating to any of the following IT systems, please escalate to your SVOC, who can escalate via the RVOC / NVOC route.

- NBS / Qflow
- NHS England Non-Clinical IT Supply Chain (including queries relating to IT hardware provided by NHS for the vaccination programme)
- BT
- Call / Recall (SCW CSU)

When raising IT system issues with your SVOC please use the escalation form available on FutureNHS [here](#).

Should you have any queries or concerns regarding any of the above, please raise this to your SVOC who can escalate onwards to review and response. If you do not know your SVOC's contact details, you can find a complete list [here](#).

Thank you for your ongoing commitment and support.

## **NEW: Bivalent Comirnaty® BA.1 Stock**

Following the authorisation to destroy Comirnaty® BA.1 bivalent vaccine stock several system colleagues have raised concerns around available supplies for vaccination under clinical discretion via a PSD.

Based on the updated information from JCVI ALL booster offers ceased on 12<sup>th</sup> February; this includes first boosters after primary course vaccinations and boosters offered via specialist allergy clinics.

The current primary course evergreen offer will continue for all cohorts – there is no change to current arrangements.

- The current cohort eligibility document is available [here](#).
- Site stock management process should be followed. A full guide on how to record wastage is available [here](#). The recording function on Foundry should apply the following waste categories: **Waste Category: Legacy vaccine > Waste Reason: Unused non-expired legacy vaccine disposed of locally**

Justification for vaccination outside of the seasonal campaign should consider clinical risk, natural immunity, and surveillance data for local infection rates. A clinical decision to reinforce immunisation with a booster dose should also take into account the risk of local and systemic side effects (see the Greenbook [here](#)).

Access to stock to support individual clinical cases / newly diagnosed clinical conditions will need to be escalated via SVOCs for the regional team to allocate a new supply of vaccine unless identified patients are being supported by viable stock already in systems. Any ringfenced doses intended for administration via a PSD should have been detailed on the return due on 24<sup>th</sup> February.

## **NEW: Legacy Stock Data Clean-up Scheduled to Commence 8 March 2023**

As part of ongoing work to ensure the accuracy of the Vaccine Deployment Programme's vaccine stock data, a planned stock clean-up will be carried out across all sites (active and inactive) between 8 – 10 March 2023.

This will involve centrally zeroing out any stocktake records entered on Site Stock Manager before the 26 December 2022, as all vaccine received before this date will now have expired and is no longer viable. A further final cleanse of stock records will then take place prior to the commencement of the Spring campaign to capture any remaining expired records in the system at this point.

Carrying out this clean-up will give the most up-to-date stock view before commencing the next campaign, which will support allocations and frontline inventory management processes.

To support this work, the Central Supply Planning team is requesting that all sites ensure their wastage and mutual aid/transfer records are fully updated **by the 5 March 2023**. Once these records have been updated, please input a new stocktake record to reflect your actual stock holding.

Where wastage and mutual aid/transfer records have not been updated prior to the commencement of the zeroing of stock on 8 March, sites unaccounted stock levels will increase as there will be no evidence in the system to show where this stock has been used.

Each vaccination site is expected to keep its unaccounted stock levels as low as possible and to support the programme in maintaining a clear auditable trail of where each dose of vaccine goes.

Please note: the record date for the zeroing of stock from stocktake records will be the date the action occurs on, i.e., if the mass zeroing activity takes place on 10 March, then this will be the date shown against all records associated to this action.

## **UPDATE: Covid-19 Vaccine Deliveries to be Paused for the Week Commencing 20 March 2023**

To support the supply chain team in their preparation for the Spring campaign, a one-week pause of all Covid-19 vaccine deliveries will be implemented for week commencing (w/c) 20 March 2023.

This pause will mean that any sites requiring vaccine to support evergreen vaccinations in the w/c 20 March will need to order sufficient vaccine for delivery in the w/c 13 March to cover two weeks of their planned/expected vaccination events.

To support this, the National Supply team will ensure sufficient evergreen vaccine allocations are made available to all regions in the w/c 13 March supply plan. This will enable the regional and systems allocation teams to allocate supplies in line with expected requirements. There will be no supply plan released for w/c 20 March.

**Revised ordering/delivery timetable because of deliveries pause in w/c 20 March:**

Day	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
Date	20/03/2023	21/03/2023	22/03/2023	23/03/2023	24/03/2023
	<b>No Deliveries</b>	<b>No Deliveries</b>	<b>No Deliveries</b>	<b>No Deliveries</b>	<b>No Deliveries</b>
Revised Delivery Day	<b>Mon 13th March</b>	<b>Tue 14th March</b>	<b>Wed 15th March</b>	<b>Thu 16th March</b>	<b>Fri 17th March</b>
Usual Order Cut- Off	Fri 17th March	Fri 17th March	Mon 20th March	Tue 21st March	Wed 22nd March
Revised Order Cut- Off	<b>Fri 10th March</b>	<b>Fri 10th March</b>	<b>Mon 13th March</b>	<b>Tue 14th March</b>	<b>Wed 15th March</b>

## Useful Links

**Ops Notes:**

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

**Communications Resources:**

Following a Government decision on the scope and timetable of the spring campaign, there will be new resources and FAQs on FutureNHS covering any changes to the seasonal and evergreen offers. Information about these will be highlighted in future editions of this bulletin.

**Clinical Updates:**

See the latest [clinical updates](#)

**Other Resources:**

[Coronavirus vaccinations](#): Our Digital team 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](#).

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