

ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 130: 14th April 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.

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

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UPDATE: Spring 2023 FAQ's

Please find attached an updated copy of FAQ's for the spring 2023 campaign.

NEW: PGD and NP for Children

The new legal mechanism for children is available, PGD [here](#) and NP [here](#).

NEW: Manual Covid Vaccination Form

Please see attached the latest version (v.13) of the Covid vaccination record form for business continuity purposes. An updated version will be available for sites to download via NHS digital platform soon.

NEW: PCN Mobilisation Guide

The Mobilisation Guide is now live on NHS Futures for all newly designated sites, designated to date, in the Spring / Summer 2023 Vaccine Programme. The link on Futures is: [20230406 Covid-19 Spring Vaccine Mobilisation Guide - FINAL - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#). Due to the number of new sites being designated, these have been done in 'waves' and for ease of referencing a Mobilisation Guide for each 'wave' has been provided. Please cascade this to your site leads.

This mobilisation guide has been written for COVID-19 Vaccination Sites contracted as part of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme. Please note Some sections of this guide will be updated, and any changes will be communicated via the Cross-Programme Bulletin.

Please sign up to the [Primary Care Bulletin](#) and [Cross Programme Bulletin for](#) regular updates.

UPDATE: Anaphylaxis Kit Provision Ceases 14/04/23

Over the last two years the national Vaccine Deployment Programme (VDP), via our Specialist Pharmaceutical Logistics (SPLs) partners, has provided anaphylaxis kits to all new vaccination sites as part of their site setup. This ensured that every permanent site had a kit available in the location where vaccinations were taking place from day one of operations.

However, following a review process and to coincide with the completion of the Spring Campaign setup, it has been decided that the provision of anaphylaxis kits to both new and existing site will **cease on 14 April 2023**. This decision reflects the fact that all the elements of these kits are now readily available and aligns to the provision of all other non-vaccine related consumables by the national programme.

After 14 April 2023, your site will need to source anaphylaxis kits from one of your usual pharmaceutical suppliers or your pharmacist can assemble one. In all circumstances anaphylaxis kits should match the below specification.

Anaphylaxis kits:

- 3 x 1ml Adrenaline (Epinephrine) Ampules 1 in 1,000 (1mg in 1ml)
- 3 x Disposable Syringes 1m
- 3 X BD Eclipse Disposable Safety Needles (Green) 21G x 1½”
- 3 X BD Eclipse Disposable Safety Needles (Blue) 23G x 1”
- 3 X Filter Needles with 5-micron filter 19(G) x 1½”

Sites should refer to the Anaphylaxis (Vaccination) Guidelines 2021 (issued December 2020) as required: [Anaphylaxis guidance for vaccination settings | Resuscitation Council UK](#)

All vaccination sites, including roving or satellite sites, must make sure that there is always an anaphylaxis kit immediately available for use in the area that vaccinations are taking place.

REMINDER: Duty of Non-Participating General Practices to Share Information on Eligible Patients

Practices which are not delivering COVID-19 vaccination under the current Enhanced Service specification should share lists of eligible patients with their local commissioner where these patients cannot all be identified by national call/recall, so that the commissioner can arrange alternative provision for these patients from another provider.

Patients who cannot all be identified nationally are likely to be immunosuppressed patients and housebound patients. Practices are required to provide information to the local commissioner under the duty of co-operation requirement in their GMS / PMS / APMS contracts and this request is necessary for reasons of public interest.

UPDATE: Clinical Screening Questions for Spring 2023 in Light of Green Book Updates

Following on from the recent update to the Green Book for the Spring campaign (summarised in the [23 March COVID-19 Vaccination Bulletin](#)), vaccination staff involved in the clinical screening and consenting process of eligible individuals are asked to be aware of the impact of these changes to some of the existing clinical screening questions currently presented in Point of Care systems:

Green Book update	Existing clinical screening question	Action for staff
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<p>Removal of recommendation for 7-day interval between shingles and COVID-19 vaccine.</p>	<p>“Has the individual been vaccinated against shingles in the last 7 days?”</p>	<p>Staff no longer required to ask as part of clinical checks.</p> <p>A 7-day gap between administration of the shingles and COVID-19 vaccine is no longer required and both may be administered together.</p> <p>Question to eventually be removed from PoC systems.</p>
<p>Removal of the deferral period post infection with COVID- 19.</p>	<p>“Is the individual aged 18 or over, and had any COVID-19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 over the last 4 weeks?”</p> <p>“Is the individual aged less than 18 years, and had any COVID- 19 symptoms or tested positive for COVID-19 over the last 12 weeks?”</p>	<p>There is no need to defer immunisation in individuals after recovery from a recent episode of suspected or confirmed COVID-19 infection. If they are considered clinically well, vaccination may go ahead.</p> <p>Question(s) to eventually be amended/removed from PoC systems.</p>

Changes reflecting the above are planned to be made directly to PoC systems at a later date.

UPDATE: VidPrevty Beta – Information on Presentation of the Adjuvant Emulsion Used to Mix the Antigen Solution

VidPrevty Beta is presented as two multidose vials (one antigen vial and one adjuvant vial) which must be mixed prior to administration. After mixing, the vaccine vial contains 10 doses of 0.5 ml.

Sanofi Pasteur have advised that the amount of adjuvant provided in the adjuvant vial may vary between 2.85 mL and 3.25 mL. Nonetheless, **the complete volume of adjuvant should always be transferred into the antigen vial**. The overfill is required by health authorities to guarantee that 10 doses of 0.5 mL vaccine can be delivered. Further details are included in the [Summary of Product Characteristics](#) and [SPS guidance](#) on preparing VidPrevty Beta. The UKHSA have also produced a [simple poster](#) with instructions on the preparation and mixing of VidPrevty Beta, which vaccination staff may find helpful.

NEW: Overseas Validation - New Digital Process

The process for recognising vaccines administered internationally has changed. Patients should now be signposted to the NHS website for details on how to have their vaccinations validated. Link below

<https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/covid-19-services/covid-19-vaccination-services/tell-the-nhs-about-covid-19-vaccinations-outside-england/>

These details were also shared in the Operational Bulletin 06/04/2023 RV189

If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact england.swcovid19-voc1@nhs.net

REMINDER: Enter Site Details for Accessibility on NBS

Promoting equality and addressing health inequalities are at the heart of the NHS constitution and we are committed to ensuring people's needs are met when accessing NHS vaccination appointments. It's important that everyone who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccination feels welcomed and can access a vaccination that meets the Accessible Information Standards [here](#).

Staff should take appropriate consideration of the reasonable adjustments and additional communication support that may be required to facilitate vaccinations for disabled people and those that require language interpretation services

The National Booking System (NBS) identifies different locations where people requiring additional support or assistance can make an appointment.

Site managers are responsible for ensuring site accessibility features and other attributes are listed correctly so that people who are booking vaccination appointments can choose a site that meets their needs. This information will be visible through the NBS at the point of booking.

New and existing sites are reminded to enter up-to-date accessibility information on NBS to support those people with a disability or sensory impairment. Switching on the Braille attribute in Q-Flow, for example, enables your site to support vaccination bookings from people who require appropriate support and access to information and guidance published in Braille. Sites can order the latest publications by visiting the [Publications Portal online](#) or by telephone (0300 123 1002, Monday to Friday 9am-5.30pm). You must register on that site as an organisation, not an individual, to enable you to order enough leaflets. Delivery is free and takes between 5-7 days.

Guidance and tutorials on how to access and update the Q-Flow attributes can be found [here](#).

UPDATE: Vaccine Records and POC Selection

As the Spring/Summer 2023 vaccination campaign gets underway there have been some examples of vaccinations being mis-recorded. We are working with regional teams to resolve these issues but would like to remind colleagues to ensure they select the correct vaccine type when recording Validated Vaccination Events (VVEs) in Point of Care systems.

All staff with responsibility for recording vaccination events should be familiar with the names and different characteristics of vaccine types currently being deployed within the programme to record a correct entry.

The UKHSA has updated its [‘Which COVID-19 Spring Vaccine’](#) poster, which staff can access as a helpful reference to differentiate between vaccine products currently in use for the Spring campaign. It’s important that vaccination events are recorded correctly to ensure that the clinical records of individuals remain accurate in healthcare systems.

The point of care systems such as Pinnacle, NIMS etc use a ‘drop-down’ menu of vaccine-types to choose from. As we will be using updated bivalent vaccines and vaccines not previously deployed in the programme during the spring, this ‘drop- down’ menu of vaccine types is likely to become longer in the short-term.

The JCVI has recommended the following vaccines to be used for Spring 2023:

- Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA (Comirnaty) bivalent vaccine authorised for adults. Dose: 30 micrograms **(Comirnaty Original / BA.4-5)**
- Moderna mRNA (Spikevax) bivalent vaccine authorised for adults. Dose: 50 micrograms **(Spikevax Original / BA.4-5)**
- Sanofi/GSK AS03-adjuvanted monovalent beta variant **(VidPrevtyn Beta)** booster vaccine authorised for adults. Dose: 5 micrograms (spike protein)
- UKHSA have updated the [Information for Healthcare Practitioners guidance](#) to include bivalent vaccines and is a useful resource for all sites.

Action for sites:

As we move to the Spring 2023 Campaign, please ensure that staff:

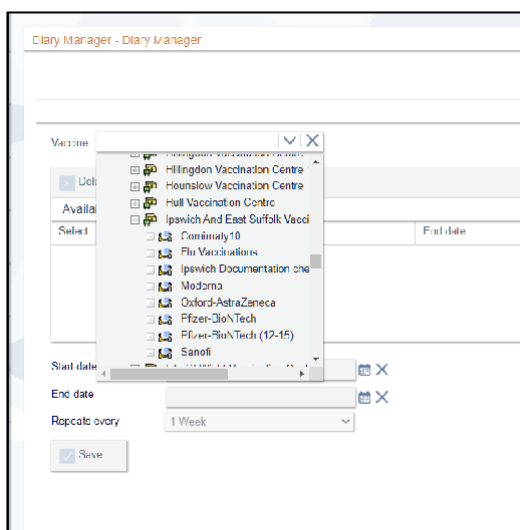
- recording any COVID-19 vaccine activity are sufficiently trained
- are aware of the common risk of mis-selecting the vaccine-type
- exercise vigilance when selecting the vaccine type on the system

- report any identified errors promptly to site or clinical leads.

REMINDER: Managing Site NBS/Q-Flow calendars for the launch of the COVID-19 Spring Campaign

Sites have been asked to prepare to deploy VidPrevtyl Beta (Sanofi) and Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5 (Pfizer) for the Spring campaign.

A new vaccine calendar called 'Sanofi' has been added to all sites in Q-Flow. If your vaccine allocation allows, please add most of your availability into this calendar as the JCVI has recommended this is prioritised for the use for adults who turn aged 75 years and over. Image below:



If your site is missing this calendar, please contact your SVOC>RVOC>NVOC who will raise with the NBS technical team.

The table below outlines where site managers would add availability in Q-Flow for the correct cohort to book through the National Booking Service.

Q-Flow Calendar name	Vaccine name	Eligible cohort
Sanofi	VidPrevtyl Beta	<u>Booster appointment type</u> JCVI has recommended this is prioritised for the use for adults who turn aged 75 years and over before 30 June 2023
Pfizer	Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5	<u>Booster appointment type</u> adults aged 75 years and over. residents in a care home for older adults individuals aged 16 years and over who are immunosuppressed. <u>Dose 1 and Dose 2 appointment type</u> Sites can use this vaccine for their primary dose appointments in those aged 16 years and over

Pfizer 12-15	Comirnaty Original/Omicron BA.4-5	<u>Booster appointment type</u> individuals aged 12-15 years who are immunosuppressed. <u>Dose 1 and Dose 2 appointment type</u> Sites can use this vaccine for their primary dose appointments in those aged 12-15
Comirnaty 10	Comirnaty 10	<u>Booster appointment type</u> individuals aged 5-11 years (and year 7 12s) a who are immunosuppressed. <u>Dose 1 and Dose 2 appointment type</u> Sites can use this vaccine for their primary dose appointments in those aged 5-11 years (and year 7 12s)
Moderna	Do not use	Do not use

All sites should open their NBS calendars in a timely way to allow people to book appointments from 5 April in advance of the start of vaccinations on 17 April.

Do not post any booster availability before 17 April.

REMINDER: Support Sessions for Spring Campaign COVID Booster Vaccination Sites: Foundry, NBS and Q-Flow

A series of 30-minute drop-in sessions 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. Contracts, Supply and Workforce colleagues will also be available to respond to queries.

If you need any other NBS/Q-Flow help and support, [drop-in sessions](#) are held 13:30 – 14:00, Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Users are reminded to check the status of their user accounts on NBS/Q-Flow and Point of Care (PoC). If users have been inactive on Q-Flow for over 50 days and/or PoC for over 90 days, the accounts will have been automatically deactivated in accordance with security measures.

Q-Flow reactivation:

If you need your account reactivated, please speak to an active site manager at your site to unlock your account for you. If there are no active site managers available, please raise this with your

SVOC>RVOC>NVOC. Full Q-Flow guidance on unlocking is available [here](#)

Point of Care (PoC) reactivation:

If you need your account reactivated on your PoC please ask an active Site Admin to reactivate your account. If there are no active Site Admin then please contact your PoC Service Desk.

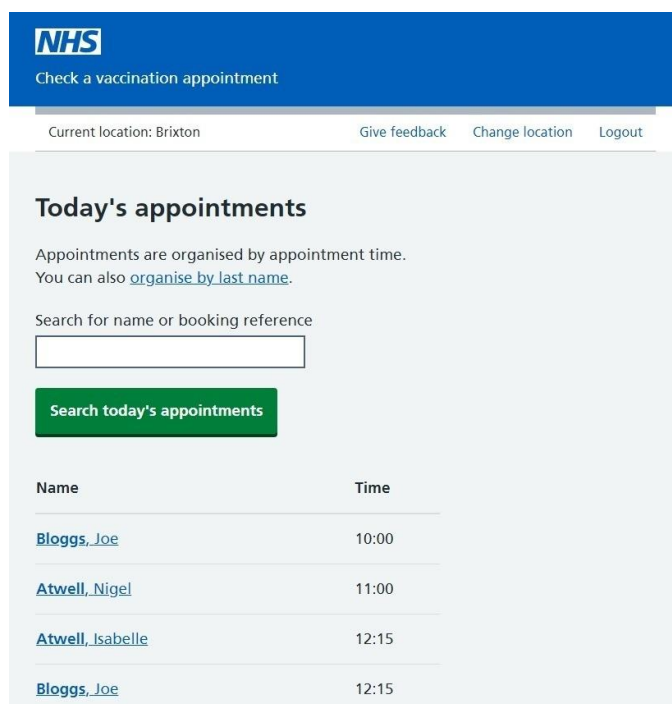
Links to the different service desks can be found [here](#)

REMINDER: NBS Check a Vaccination Service (Check-In App) Updated Streamlined Version is Now Available

As a direct response to user feedback, NBS has developed a streamlined check-in solution where appointments for the day are presented as a list. This makes the checking in process much simpler and quicker. Other advantages of the service are that the data flows directly to Q-Flow, the service works securely offline and encourages best practise.

To try the updated Check-In app, we recommend reading the [online guidance](#) then visiting <https://www.nhs.uk/book-a-coronavirus-vaccination/check/login>. The page may need to be refreshed to see the new view. Once logged in, the previous guided version is still available via a link at the bottom of the page.

If you are an arrival steward and are having issues logging in, it may be due to your account being deactivated after a period of inactivity. To resolve, ask your site manager [to reactivate your account in Q-Flow](#).



The screenshot shows the NHS 'Check a vaccination appointment' app interface. At the top, there is a blue header with the NHS logo and the text 'Check a vaccination appointment'. Below the header, there are navigation links: 'Current location: Brixton', 'Give feedback', 'Change location', and 'Logout'. The main content area is titled 'Today's appointments' and includes a sub-header 'Appointments are organised by appointment time. You can also [organise by last name](#).' Below this is a search bar with the placeholder text 'Search for name or booking reference' and a green button labeled 'Search today's appointments'. The search results are displayed in a table with two columns: 'Name' and 'Time'.

Name	Time
Bloggs, Joe	10:00
Atwell, Nigel	11:00
Atwell, Isabelle	12:15
Bloggs, Joe	12:15

Please let us know how we can improve the service further by completing our quick feedback survey [here](#) or by clicking 'Give Feedback' in the app.

REMINDER: Update on the Vaccine Data Resolution Service (VDRS)

The way to contact the VDRS has now changed.

Domestic: People who identify errors or missing doses in their or their child's record can now contact the service on 0300 561 0017. Individuals will no longer be able to access the service via 119 directly but will be signposted to the new phone number if they select option 3. This service is for public-facing queries only and not for the use of sites. Please note that cases that

do not meet the nationally set business rules for additions or edits will continue to be escalated for assistance from regions.

International: The process for recognising vaccines administered internationally is changing. In the coming days, a fully remote digital service will be launched. More information on this service, and how people can access it, will be published on the NHS website when the service opens:

[Tell the NHS about COVID-19 vaccinations you've had outside England - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Updates From Other Areas of the Programme

Webinar: 'Preparing for a successful spring 2023 COVID-19 campaign'

You can watch this recent webinar, which set out priorities and next steps for the forthcoming campaign, on FutureNHS [here](#).

Operational notes:

[Latest Operational bulletins](#)

You can find all the latest operational notes on FutureNHS [here](#).

Communications resources:

[Equalities Community of Practice](#)

You can find communications resources on FutureNHS including a core script and FAQs for the spring campaign, a long list of public FAQs, and a pack of posters to use in sites.

Clinical updates:

See previous [clinical updates](#).

Workforce support:

[Workforce and Training update](#)

[National Workforce Support Offer Toolkit](#) is a practical guide for local vaccination service leads with more detail about the National Workforce Support Offer.

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](#).

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.

All COVID-19 vaccination queries for national teams should be escalated via the SVOC/RVOC/NVOC process.