

South West Vaccination & Screening Team

ICARS Bulletin


South West Collaborative
Commissioning Hub



Issue 136: 7th July 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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NEW: Regional Thank You Message

The regional team would like to send a huge thank you to all our teams supporting access to COVID-19 vaccinations. This campaign has been a success because of all of YOU!

The **total number of south west vaccine events is 608,070** (combined first, second and booster doses) up to 29th June.

The Spring 2023 COVID-19 vaccination Campaign **ended 30th June 2023**, as set out in the [Health and Social Care Secretary statement](#). The evergreen programme for first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccines also ended on 30th June 2023.

All primary course offers will cease, except for those who are 6 months to 4 years old in a clinical risk group. The government has also accepted JCVI advice which confirms that those

who become newly severely immunosuppressed between seasonal campaigns should be considered for COVID 19 vaccination in the inter-seasonal period.

The [Comirnaty THREE vaccination programme for 6 month to 4-year-olds \(considering rising 5-year-olds\)](#) in clinically at risk groups started on the 1st June and will continue into the Autumn 23/24 campaign. The primary schedule, dose one, two or three (if clinically appropriate) should be completed before 31st December 2023. Information on vaccination for 6 months to 4 year olds in a clinical risk group, including details about the rising 5's offer, is available in the [System Letter](#), [Operational Note](#) and [Deployment Guide](#). Key documents also available [here](#).

Access to vaccination will now be targeted to people at increased risk from COVID-19 and most will have to wait until a future campaign. The inter-seasonal vaccination offer information was shared in the ops note: "*Inter-seasonal Period Eligibility and Actions (July – September 2023)*" [here](#).

Vaccine stock: Comirnaty BA.4/5 and Vidprevtyn Beta vaccine stock should be quarantined by all sites not actively supported the inter-seasonal period.

NEW: Comirnaty 3 (Three) Concentrate COVID19 Vaccinations - 6 Month to 4 Year-Olds in a Clinical Risk Group

Identifying Patients:

When completing searches to identify the 6 month to 4 year-olds in a clinical risk group, PRIMIS or Cohorting as a Service (CaaS) will enable providers to find the majority of those who are most at risk. CaaS searches use several data sources to increase capture of coded conditions, including GPES and HES, while PRIMIS is embedded in GP clinical systems allowing GPs to search the data they hold, but not the other sources that CaaS has access to. To this effect, using a combination of the CaaS and PRIMIS data through the embedded search function will ensure the greatest coverage of the cohort and mitigate against eligible people being unintentionally overlooked.

For additional information on the GP Dashboard, please see the previous Covid-19 vaccination bulletins from 7 & 15 June 2023 found [here](#).

Guide to Support Parents:

The COVID-19 guide for parents of children 6 months to 11 years of age at high risk has now been updated to include the 6 month to 4 year-olds and uploaded to the UKHSA site [here](#). Please delete previously circulated copies to ensure you have the most up to date version of the document. The guide will be translated into other languages and uploaded to the GOV.UK website; we will share the link when available.

REMINDER: Help us To Improve Point of Care Systems Used to Capture and Report on Various Vaccination Data

Please help to improve systems used to capture and report on various vaccination data (COVID, Flu and other vaccinations), by sharing what you think of some early prototypes for a new system, based on discovery work done last year.

These systems are being designed for all users but those users from Community Pharmacies and from Maternity practice are particularly sought.

There will be a series of 30 minute research sessions over Microsoft Teams soon, if you'd like to take part, please complete the short form [here](#)

NEW: Regional Clinical Incident Reports to Cease Temporarily

As the Spring campaign has come to a close, regions are advised that, **from 30th June 2023, they no longer need to report all clinical incidents via RVOC/NVOC** using the standard templates ([Weekly COVID-19 Vaccination Incidents Log Template - COVID-19 Vaccination Programme - FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#)).

This is a temporary suspension that is providing a pause before the next campaign. We will be reviewing and revising the template for weekly reporting with regional colleagues.

Regions should continue to monitor clinical incidents and ensure that usual reporting to NRLS/LFPSE/STERIS remains in place, it is only the weekly reporting that is being paused.

Serious incidents defined as:

- Incidents leading to actual or potential reputational damage.
- Significant adverse reactions.
- Death post vaccination.
- Operational issues with clinical cause or impact.

These incidents should continue to be escalated to the Clinical & Evaluation Workstream via RVOC/NVOC within 24 hours of the incident occurring, as per the existing Clinical Incident Reporting SOP.

Further National Links and Resources

Operational notes:

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

Communications resources:

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:

Previous editions of the clinical updates, before they were merged with this Bulletin, can be found [here](#).

Workforce and Training Bulletin:

Previous editions of this Bulletin, before it was merged with this Bulletin, can be found [here](#).

Workforce support:

[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.

[Equalities Community of Practice here](#), with bespoke tools, resources and content for engagement and practice in supporting and learning from people and partners within underserved communities and equalities groups.

[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 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.