

# South West Vaccination & Screening Team

## ICARS Bulletin

  
South West Collaborative  
Commissioning Hub



*Issue 137: 21st 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](mailto:england.swicars@nhs.net).*

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

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## **NEW: Letter of Thanks from Rachel Pearce**

Dear Colleagues,

Our remarkable vaccination teams across the South West have done it again! At the end of the Spring covid vaccination campaign our region has had the best uptake in the country – 73.64% with a national average of 66.46% - and all seven of our ICBs appearing in the top 15, out of 42 Systems, with BSW and Somerset coming first and second respectively.

In addition, we were the first region to achieve 100% of Older Adult Care Homes vaccinated, with 90.07% of residents in these homes being vaccinated – the national average being 83.85%.

I could not be prouder of the wonderful people that have helped us achieve these phenomenal results – from the frontline teams that have given the vaccinations or delt directly with our patients, to all the staff working diligently away behind the scenes to ensure the success of the campaign.

The Spring programme has proved challenging in many ways, and we've had to deal with a general apathy towards Covid from many quarters, so I wanted to express my heartfelt thanks to all of you, for your professionalism, your perseverance, and your willingness to, as always, go above and beyond to protect our communities.

Thank you

Rachel Pearce  
Director of Commissioning  
NHS England South West

Uptake rank	Organisation Name	SS23 Uptake
1	South West	73.64%
2	South East	71.79%
3	East of England	68.75%
4	North East and Yorkshire	67.31%
5	Midlands	66.15%
6	North West	62.51%
7	London	50.01%
	National average	66.46%

## REMINDER: End of the Spring Programme

The spring programme has now finished, thank you for delivering over 4.5 m spring booster vaccinations.

A reminder that the government 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.

### ***Identification of eligible people:***

The Green Book states that individuals who develop severe immunosuppression (as defined in the Green Book Chapter 14a, boxes 1 and 2 see [link](#)) may be at high risk of severe COVID19 and less able to sustain any protection from previous vaccination or exposure. These individuals should be considered for catch-up primary vaccination or additional dose(s) of vaccination before the next seasonal campaign, based on clinical judgement.

**At the beginning of the inter-seasonal period, there will not be a known cohort of patients who will require vaccination.** However, there will be individuals who develop severe immunosuppression including those who have completed a STEM cell transplant, those with new health conditions or starting specified treatments.

Specialist clinicians managing the care of patients commencing immunosuppressive treatment will therefore be best placed to:

- identify them as **newly** severely immunosuppressed.
- carry out an individual clinical assessment on whether they should be recommended to receive catch-up primary vaccination or additional dose(s) of vaccination before the next seasonal campaign.
- advise on the best timing for vaccination, as any additional doses should be administered with special attention given to current or planned immunosuppressive therapies.
- direct them to a local vaccination offer.

There will not be a national invitation system for these individuals.

In the inter-seasonal period, only Comirnaty BA. 4-5 (for those aged 12 years and over) and Comirnaty 10 Concentrate (for those aged 5 to 11 years) will be available for those who are **newly** severely immunosuppressed.

## **UPDATE: Clarification on the Management of Stock Following the Ending of the Spring 2023 Booster COVID-19 Vaccination Offer**

In some circumstances, sites may have stocks of vaccine remaining following the completion of the Spring booster campaign, which will not be used during the inter-seasonal period by the site before the expiry date.

Where this is the case, sites should first seek to offer this vaccine to nearby active vaccination sites, which are continuing to vaccinate eligible cohorts during the inter-seasonal period. ICBs can support sites in doing this.

Where it is not possible for sites to use or move the vaccine before the expiry date, standard procedures for local disposal should be followed. Please also ensure any disposals have been accurately recorded in Site Stock Manager on Foundry, as well as completing a final end of campaign stocktake.

## **REMINDER: Cease Vaccination Activity and Close LBS Calendars for the Spring 2023 COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign**

The Spring 2023 COVID-19 vaccination campaign ended on 30 June 2023, as set out in the [Health and Social Care Secretary statement on spring booster programme and evergreen offer](#). The offer of a first or second dose of COVID-19 vaccine has also now ended and related vaccination activity should now cease.

It is apparent that some sites are continuing to load Local Booking System calendar capacity beyond 30 June 2023. Only vaccinations of newly diagnosed severely immunosuppressed people and 6-month to 4-year olds in a clinical risk group, can take place after in line with the system letter on [Vaccination of 6-month to 4-year-olds in a clinical risk group](#).

Sites should close first, second and booster related COVID-19 Spring 2023 calendars and cease vaccination. Thank you for your co-operation.

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

Your help is requested 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 completed last year.

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

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

## 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.**