

Monday 22 February

Updates to the COVID-19 vaccination Enhanced Service

We have made a few small updates to the Enhanced Service for the COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/21 – [read here](#). These changes have been agreed with the General Practitioners' Committee of the British Medical Association and expand the circumstances in which a PCN Grouping can vaccinate eligible patients registered with other practices/another PCN grouping.

- Under the revised terms and subject to commissioner approval, a PCN grouping can vaccinate eligible patients registered with another PCN grouping in a residential setting e.g., care home for patients with a Learning Disability (the previous wording only permitted vaccination in an older adult care home).
- It is also possible for a PCN grouping to vaccinate an eligible patient registered with a Defence Medical Services practice, if the patient requests to be vaccinated at a PCN designated site (as opposed to their Defence Medical Practice) and the PCN grouping is able to support this.
- To reflect the additional supplements for vaccinations in care homes and other residential settings, we have also included a new paragraph to clarify that NHSE/I may make additional discretionary payments available to GP practices to support the delivery of or incentivise vaccinations in particular seldom heard groups in exceptional circumstances. [Read here](#) for further information on additional funding available to support COVID-19 vaccinations in residential settings.

Vaccinating adult carers

According to the JCVI and Public Health England Green Book, adult carers are “those who are eligible for a carer’s allowance, or those who are the sole or primary carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk of COVID-19 mortality and therefore clinically vulnerable”. Two data sources are being used to identify those who are eligible within this definition: those flagged as carers in GP systems, and those assessed by DWP as eligible for Carer’s Allowance. Those who have a carers flag on GP systems are being called by PCN LVSs, as in many cases they will accompany the person they care for if they are also being vaccinated in cohort 6, for example those with learning disabilities. From Saturday 20 February those identified within these groups will be able to book via the National Booking Service.

To support maximising all available capacity and vaccine supply in your area for adult carers, local systems are asked to take the following action:

1. a) Use local communication and engagement networks to advise eligible adult carers (i.e. those known to be eligible for Carer’s Allowance) that they can make a booking via the NBS or 119 in advance of receiving their letter of invitation. Local Authorities have strong community and third sector networks which can support systems to explain and communicate this to local communities.
1. **b) This initial phase of adult carers do not need to provide any evidence of eligibility as they are already identified as eligible and will be able to book with their personal details or NHS number.**
1. c) Carers under 18 will not be able to book using the National Booking Service. Those under 18 will need to be invited by their LVS where they can receive the Pfizer vaccine.

Support

Vaccine Inventory Information

In order to manage vaccine stocks in an effective way across the programme, we need to capture certain data at site level. During March we will begin to introduce a new stock management and allocation notification system which will be the mechanism to give sites access to their forthcoming order information and vaccine events in a user-friendly format via the Foundry platform. It will also require sites to record wastage and stock levels on a weekly basis; it is in the interest of everyone providing vaccination services that we have this information in order to ensure that we can continue to make appropriate allocations of vaccine to your site.

In the interim, we are introducing a new webform which starts to collect this information and replaces any local process. It asks all sites to record their stock position and to record any wastage. Each site is asked to complete the web form on a Monday morning to reflect stock held at close of day on the Sunday preceding and recording wastage during the previous 7 days. This will be possible from Monday 22nd February (informing allocations made after this date with the latest information) and all sites should upload from Monday 1st March on a weekly basis. We will follow with a link to the webform when we switch to this process. Hospital Hubs who already report this information through RxInfo Pharmacy system will not need to switch to this process, and sites that are already reporting this information using the attached link should continue to do so.

We will also work closely with your regional team and RVOCs to ensure we accurately capture the transfer and mutual aid of vaccines across sites. The data on stock, including the deliveries, usage for vaccinations, stock positions reported by sites, and the delta between expected and recorded stock for each site will be available to regional leadership users in reports and as full backing datasets accessible through NHS Foundry. We will consult regional users and take feedback on the structure and presentation of these reports and will make the data available to regional leadership after it is collected. These data will also inform the reports that are sent out on estimated days of AstraZeneca stock held per site once the new data start to be collected.

Vaccine Supply – Community Pharmacy

We recognise that many sites would like more vaccine and have capacity to deliver more vaccinations each week. We remain determined to vaccinate more people as fast as supplies allow, while also ensuring people get their second dose.

When managing supply, you may open clinics that use the vaccine allocation over 2- 3 days if good patient access is maintained and on agreement with your regional team. This will change when the vaccine supply received allows for full utilisation of your appointment slots. We recommend that sites open further appointments later in the same week if appropriate based on actual vaccine usage, and operate a reserve patient list to fill 'did not attend' appointments and prevent wastage.

We have created a [National Vaccination Programme Supply & Delivery Hub](#) where sites can view their latest delivery schedules for vaccine and non-vaccine supplies as and keep abreast of any other important supply and delivery-related information. The Hub is managed by our National Supply and Delivery Team.

Utilisation of nationally-recruited clinical and volunteer roles

There is now a large national workforce pool of trained and vetted candidates who are available to support local vaccination services on a flexible basis. As a reminder, the recruitment for these roles are funded centrally.

These individuals can be accessed through Lead Employers, who can help you to draw down for the following roles:

- Vaccinators, Clinical Supervisors and Registered Healthcare Professionals from the NHS Professional recruitment process. These candidates are trained and vetted but will require local onboarding, some face to face training and checks before being deployed to a site.
- Clinical and GP Returners who have offered to support the NHS vaccination programme
- Volunteer vaccinators, patient advocates and post-vaccination observers supplied by St John Ambulance
- Volunteer stewards supplied by NHS Volunteer Responders, led by Royal Voluntary Service. These volunteers have been through security screening processes in line with Home Office guidance.

Many teams are making good use of the additional capacity that individuals in each of these groups can bring. Engagement with these pools has not however been universal.

It should be a starting assumption that Lead Employers utilise all of these additional staff available to them when planning their workforce requirements over the coming weeks.

This is important in terms of minimising the impact on other NHS services caused by drawing existing staff in from their substantive roles, providing cover for colleagues in those services who would benefit from rest periods, and ensuring the efficient use of NHS resources.

Please do utilise the nationally-recruited staff and volunteers via Lead Employers when additional roles are required. If it is genuinely the case that additional resources are not needed at this time, please continue to engage with these staff about the progress of local vaccination activities and when workforce may be needed – this will also help manage expectations of candidates waiting to be deployed.

[New COVID-19 vaccination support materials for people with a learning disability](#)

These resources will help staff provide accessible appointments to ensure people with a learning disability and autistic people in a high-risk group have safe and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccination:

- [Covid Vaccine film](#) produced by Skills for People and Learning Disability England
- PHE [easy read Covid vaccination leaflet](#)
- PHE [easy read What to expect after the vaccine leaflet](#)
- PHE [easy read Consent form for adults](#)

Additional [training materials for COVID 19 vaccinators and volunteers](#) provide top tips on communicating with people with a learning disability and autistic people and reasonable adjustments that should be considered.

Last modified by  [Juliet Nowell](#) 2 days ago