

Regional Clinical Advice Response Service 12/03/21

For any COVID-19 vaccination related queries or to escalate an incident please contact:
england.swcovid19-voc@nhs.net

Please note that going forward and in line with the RVOC and NVOC, RCARS will now operate between the hours of 8am and 6pm over the weekend.

**PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL RELEVANT STAFF INVOLVED WITH THE
VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

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Updates to the Standard Operating Procedure for LVS deployment in community settings

The [Standard operating procedure \(SOP\)](#) for COVID-19 local vaccination services deployment in community settings has been updated and republished. It includes a lot of new and we hope helpful material, all of which is highlighted in yellow throughout the document. The new material includes:

- New appendices on:
 - Reasonable adjustments for people with SMI, dementia, learning disabilities and autistic people;
 - Vaccinating in residential settings/settings of multiple occupancy;
 - Temporary vaccination clinics (for example, in places of worship);
- New sections on:
 - Vaccine security and crime prevention;
 - Movement of the vaccine;



- Communicating for diversity and inclusion;
- Additional considerations around consent for people with SMI, dementia learning disabilities and autistic people.

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Eligible Unpaid Carers - Letter

8 March 2021

Dear Colleagues

On 15 February we met the government's target to offer a vaccine to everyone within the top four priority cohorts, as set by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). We're really pleased to again report on the huge strides the community is taking to protect those vulnerable to COVID-19 and our vital care workers.

This pandemic has taught us all the value of recognition for all the unsung heroes across health and social care, and so it's right that we now protect and support those that help so many of us to live our lives in a more positive way, by vaccinating those unpaid carers that look after people vulnerable to COVID-19.

We have published a Standard Operating Procedure on the process for vaccinating eligible unpaid carers ¹ and we're very grateful to all the partners that helped us to set out a process that reaches so many, and in particular to Carers UK, Carers Trust, ADASS and the LGA who have co-badged the SOP.

Similar to other cohorts, all eligible carers will be contacted by the NHS when it's their turn to get the vaccine and will be given the information they need to book a vaccination. As outlined in the SOP, we are working from lists of 'known' carers to do this.

NHS England and NHS Improvement is collating lists of unpaid carers drawn from a mixture of national and local sources, including:

- Those known to GPs who have a 'carers flag' on their primary care record
- Those in receipt of or entitled to a carers allowance
- Those known to Local Authorities who are in receipt of support following a carers assessment
- Those known to local carers organisations to be actively receiving support

We know that there are many carers unknown to the system, and we want to do everything we can to get vaccines to those that need it, and who are eligible because they support someone who is at risk. So, in the coming week we will publish further information on an application process for those eligible unpaid carers that aren't already known to access their vaccination.

We thank you all again for the huge amount of work being done, and for the huge collaborative effort that continues to deliver vaccines to millions across the UK.

Yours sincerely

Sir David Pearson
Chair
Social Care Sector Covid-19
Taskforce

Dr Emily Lawson
NHS Chief Commercial Officer and
SRO Vaccine Deployment

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Eligible Unpaid Carers – Standard Operating Procedure (SOP)

Unpaid carers play a vital role. The nature of unpaid care is broad, and the roles and responsibilities that carers provide varies both in scope and intensity. They can be family members or friends, adults or children, who provide crucial care to a person who, due to a lifelong condition, be it to their physical and/or mental health, disability, or serious injury, simply cannot cope without their support.

The Joint Committee on Immunisation and Vaccination (JCVI) has set the Phase One priorities for the rollout of the COVID-19 Vaccination programme. The key principle underpinning the JCVI's approach to identifying nine priority cohorts in Phase one has been the protection of those at greatest clinical risk from COVID-19, and protection of the frontline health and social care workforce. It reflects the vital role of those unpaid carers that they have been explicitly recognised within priority group 6 for COVID-19 vaccination.

The JCVI definition of an unpaid carer has been clarified in Public Health England's [Green Book](#) for COVID-19. This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) seeks to support unpaid carers' access to the COVID-19 vaccination as part of priority cohort 6.

This SOP draws on national and local sources for known carers, to help identify and enable them to be invited quickly for vaccination, as well as making provision for those unpaid carers who may not already be known to the health and social care system to come forward.

The SOP can be read in full [here](#)

Guidance to Support COVID-19 Vaccine Uptake in Frontline Staff

The efficacy of the COVID-19 vaccine is now well-established. We are seeing real world evidence that the COVID-19 vaccines are highly effective in preventing hospitalisations and reducing adverse outcomes from COVID-19. We must act swiftly to protect our staff and patients, which forms part of our duty of care. As a result, there is a necessity to ensure our staff are protected with the COVID-19 vaccine; this guidance outlines approaches to support universal first dose coverage by 12 March 2021 for all frontline staff.

The guidance at the link below can be used to facilitate conversations and to help address frequently asked questions around frontline staff vaccinating.

[Coronavirus » Guidance to support COVID-19 vaccine uptake in frontline staff \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/guidance-to-support-covid-19-vaccine-uptake-in-frontline-staff/)

Faulty Plungers in Syringes

During last week's NIN teleconference, an issue was raised with regards to possible defects in the plungers in the syringes used for the COVID19 vaccine administration. If you have any issues with the plungers, please could you send them to:

Covid19PHEsupplies@phe.gov.uk

Please ensure you provide the make and batch number.

Learning Disability Reasonable Adjustment and Additional Support Document

We are pleased to share a useful document (courtesy of Sirona Care and Health) that can be used to support those with learning difficulties to access a Covid-19 vaccination.

Please see attached document.

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