

Regional Clinical Advice Response Service 03/06/21

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

Contents:

1. [Vaccinating People Under the Age of 40](#)
2. [Vaccinating People with Severe Mental Illness \(SMI\), Dementia, a Learning Disability and Autistic People](#)
3. [COVID-19 Vaccinations for Under 18s – Correction](#)
4. [National Shared Professional Decision Making Council](#)
5. [Cold Chain](#)
6. [Lean Fundamentals Registration – Final Call for Sign-Up](#)
7. [Updated Guidance](#)

Vaccinating People Under the Age of 40

Colleagues are alerted to the change in eligibility for AstraZeneca vaccine for those under the age of 40:

- Healthy adults under the age of 40 will receive either the Pfizer or the Moderna vaccine and are now **not eligible** to receive AstraZeneca.
- Healthy adults under the age of 40 who have already received their first dose of AstraZeneca are still eligible to receive their second dose of AstraZeneca.
- Individuals under the age of 40 who already have a first dose of AstraZeneca booked, will have their appointments cancelled and will be invited and given advice on how to re-book a Pfizer or Moderna vaccine via the National Booking System.

In the unlikely event that people under 40 present to your site(s) for their 1st dose, please explain that they need to receive an alternative to the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine. Please advise them to go back onto the NBS to book their 1st and 2nd dose appointments. If you can offer them an alternative vaccine there and then, please advise them to book their 2nd dose vaccination on the NBS following their 1st dose.

This guidance is in line with the [JCVI guidance](#) on vaccinating people under the age of 40, and is also highlighted in [Chapter 14a](#)

NHS England and NHS Improvement



[of the Green Book](#) (page 15) which states:

Healthy adults aged 18-39 years

Evidence suggests that the risk of serious COVID-19 disease is strongly related to age, and the risk of COVID-19 mortality, hospitalisation and ICU admission is lower in younger adults. Based on the current epidemiological situation, and taking into account projected vaccine supply, JCVI are advising a preference for a vaccine other than AstraZeneca to be offered to healthy people under 40 years of age, including health and social care workers, unpaid carers and household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals.

This advice may change if there is a change in the epidemiology or an interruption in the supply of the alternative vaccines. Within this age group, those who are older (over 30 years of age), male, from certain minority ethnic backgrounds, in certain occupations at high risk of exposure, and those who are obese, remain at high risk of COVID-19. In the absence of a suitable alternative these individuals should still be offered the AstraZeneca vaccine, and may choose to receive the vaccine, provided they have been informed and understand the relative risks and benefits. They should be given the latest version of the COVID-19 vaccination and blood clotting leaflet (<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-and-blood-clotting>).

Those who have already received a dose of AstraZeneca vaccine should complete with the same vaccine (see contraindications and precautions).

[JCVI advises on COVID-19 vaccine for people aged under 40 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-and-blood-clotting)

Vaccinating People with Severe Mental Illness (SMI), Dementia, a Learning Disability and Autistic People

Guidance for service staff on delivering the vaccine to people with SMI, dementia, a learning disability and autism is available via the [FutureNHS Collaboration Platform](#). The guidance covers:

- Identifying people eligible for vaccination, including prioritisation of people with underlying health conditions
- Informed consent and mental capacity, including links to easy read information and consent forms, right to decline the vaccine, and individuals without mental capacity to consent
- Supporting people to access a vaccination

COVID-19 Vaccinations for Under 18s – Correction

Colleagues are alerted to a clarification relating to an item reported in the Clinical Workstream Update of the 14th May on the vaccination of people under the age of 18. Please note the correct guidance is as below:

The following people under 18 are eligible for vaccination:

- 16-17 year olds
 - Clinically extremely vulnerable (Cohort 4) – click [here](#) for more detail

- Clinically vulnerable (Cohort 6) – ref: Table 3 in Chapter 14a of the [Green Book](#)
- Staff/volunteers/apprentices in health & social care (Cohort 2)
- 12-15 year-olds with severe neuro-disabilities who receive institutional care (whether full time residential or regular visits to such settings)

Prescribers should apply clinical judgement to consider both the risk of COVID-19 infection itself and the impact it might have on any underlying disease.

National Shared Professional Decision Making Council

The National Shared Professional Decision Making Council is expanding its membership. Originally established as part of Chief Nursing Officers' vision for a strong collective voice and shared governance/leadership models, the Council has brought together nurses, at the point of care, to reflect on practice and key learning during the pandemic.

It is inviting expressions of interest from nursing colleagues who have returned to support the vaccine rollout, and possibly those that are deciding to continue to practice in the NHS in one capacity or another.

The Council meets monthly for 1 hour. It is regularly attended by Ruth May and is a great opportunity to work utilising shared decision-making and collective leadership principles to give views, identify risks and opportunities whilst offering suggestions/solutions to issues and challenges, based on their expertise, background and practice.

Each meeting will usually discuss one or two key items:

- topics which have been suggested and introduced by members
- presentations from national policy leads where council members can provide feedback and engage with policy issues.

Members are:

- ideally practicing at the point of care nurses and will normally be bands 5-7
- from a variety backgrounds and settings
- not representing their organisation but are bringing their own individual views and experiences as a registered nurse

If you are interested in becoming involved in a Chief Nursing Officer for England's national Shared Professional Decision-Making council, please contact england.1professionalvoice@nhs.net.

Cold Chain

Colleagues are reminded that maintaining the cold chain is vital to ensure vaccine efficacy, therefore good local procedures for managing the vaccine cold chain must be in place at all sites. If for any reason a temperature excursion does take place, then these should be investigated appropriately and remedial action taken. [The Green Book \(Chapter 3\)](#) provides

essential detailed guidance for maintaining the vaccine cold chain. Further information is also available on the specialist pharmacy services website here: [Maintaining the COVID-19 vaccines cold chain](#) .

The SPS have also issued an [improvement alert](#) and checklist on managing the cold chain, which should be highlighted to clinical and operational teams. Sites should also ensure they have robust business continuity plans in place for managing power outages with a specific focus on temperature excursions that occur out of hours.

Lean Fundamentals Registration – Final Call for Sign-Up

Lean Fundamentals is a new, online programme designed by experienced Lean practitioners and technology-enhanced-learning experts to share practical knowledge and Lean improvement skills to support the operational management of processes.

The programme is free, CPD accredited and comprises an induction module followed by six, one-hour content modules available 24/7 over an eight-week period to enable you to complete the programme at your own pace.

We are inviting everyone within the vaccination programme to join us. As participants, you will be able to communicate with our faculty team and with other participants to share thoughts, ideas, challenges and good practice.

The course will be running from 31st May 2021 to 25th July 2021.

Sign in or create a new account on the [QI Learning platform](#), then [click this link](#) or scan the QR code (see attached PDF) to be taken to the correct Lean Fundamentals course.

Updated Guidance

Updated guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from Covid-19

[Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from COVID-19 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)

Please find updated guidance published today

[COVID-19 infection prevention and control guidance \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](#)

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