

**Regional Clinical Advice Response Service 25/06/21**

For any COVID-19 vaccination related queries or to escalate an incident please contact:  
[england.swcovid19-cars@nhs.net](mailto: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**

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**FAQs: Students in Higher Education Institutions****Dosing intervals between first and second doses**

The minimum dosing intervals recommended by manufacturers is 21 days for Pfizer and 28 days for AstraZeneca and Moderna.

However, despite these minimum dosing intervals, in the UK we have adopted a longer dosing interval as recommended by the [CMO letter and JCVI guidance](#). Therefore, operationally second dose vaccinations should not be offered earlier than 8 weeks except in accordance with the guidance issued by JCVI and the Green Book. e.g. transplant patients or those about to undergo immunosuppression treatment where vaccination prior to this would be beneficial.

Any decision to vaccinate earlier than 8 weeks should be made by the patient's responsible clinician or vaccination site clinical lead on a case-by-case basis and must be based on risks and benefits of giving the second dose earlier than recommended by JCVI.

Consideration must be given to the emerging data showing better efficacy of all vaccines when given, at least 8 weeks apart, compared with a much shorter dosing interval.

NHS England and NHS Improvement



Further information is available here:

Green Book Chapter 14a:

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/984310/Greenbook\\_chapter\\_14a\\_7May2021.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/984310/Greenbook_chapter_14a_7May2021.pdf)

Pfizer Study: <https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2021/05/covid-pfizer-vaccination-interval-antibody-response.aspx>

AZ Study: <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33617777/>

### **Clarification of guidance for Flight Crew working concurrently in the NHS and the airline industry**

We are delighted to have the support of staff who usually work for airlines. They are a valued part of the workforce helping to protect the population and save lives through their contribution to the vaccination programme.

As we move towards increased international travel, we may find some of the staff who have been supporting us from the airlines are asked to return to their flight duties. However, they may wish to continue working within the vaccine service. We have worked with the DHSC Managed Quarantine Service team to clarify the national guidance for staff and managers.

"No person who has been in a red or amber listed country should enter a vaccination centre before the end of the 10-day quarantine period. All flight crew will need to follow their usual requirements in terms of isolating and testing and only once the 10-day period has passed (and 2 negative Lateral Flow Tests on day 2 +8) will they then be permitted to work in the vaccination sites.

Where a person (flight crew included) has a positive Lateral Flow Test, they will need to self-isolate and book a PCR test on-line. They would then have the test at the nearest place to their place of residence. That may or may not be the centre where they are working".

For more details on any of the above, please email [england.covid-clinical@nhs.net](mailto:england.covid-clinical@nhs.net) for more information.

### **Guidance for healthcare professionals for people refusing AZ or for people requesting AZ if under 40**

Colleagues are encouraged to review the guidance and resources (particularly in paragraphs 25 and 26) of [Information for healthcare professionals on blood clotting following COVID-19 vaccination](#) (updated on 8<sup>th</sup> June 2021) to support conversations with individuals refusing AstraZeneca vaccine, or requesting it, if under the age of 40.

## **Heatwave plans for Vaccination services**

Prolonged periods of elevated daytime and night-time temperatures have potential to impact upon the wellbeing of vaccination workers and people attending for vaccination. This can range from fatigue and faintness (fainting), mild dehydration to heat exhaustion and heat stroke. The risks can be made worse by lack of ventilation/shelter from direct sunlight, proximity of heat sources such as IT equipment and the wearing of PPE.

Each site should make its own risk assessment and have access to the PHE Heatwave alerting cascade systems, which indicate the imminence of hot weather. Any actions should be linked to the levels that exist within the Heatwave Plan for England  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/heatwave-plan-for-england>

Advice for Staff and public as to how to keep safe in heat can be found in PHE top tips for keeping cool:  
[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/201037/9545-2901035-TSO-Yourself\\_Accessible.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/201037/9545-2901035-TSO-Yourself_Accessible.pdf)

## **Access to vaccine with no NHS number - FAQs**

Patients, including NHS staff, do not require an NHS number or GP registration to receive a vaccination and should never be denied one on this basis.

Colleagues are encouraged to review the [FAQ document](#) addressing access to vaccine with no NHS number, available on FuturesNHS.

## **FAQs: Students in Higher Education Institutions**

We have published [Frequently Asked Questions to support general practice and higher education institutions](#)

In general, patients should return to the place they had their first dose to have their second dose. However, it is appropriate for students to receive their second dose in a different location to their first dose due to their circumstances. The National Booking Service has an option to book or re-arrange the second vaccination appointment at a different location to the first appointment. If a student had a first dose in Wales, Scotland or Northern Ireland, but is in England at the time of their second dose, they should either:

1. book a second dose through the National Booking Service (if they are registered with a GP in England and therefore have an English NHS number);
2. register with a GP in England and book an appointment that way; or
3. approach a local GP and ask to be vaccinated as an unregistered patient.

If a person has received a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine overseas with a vaccine that is also available in the UK, they should receive the same vaccine for their second dose. If the vaccine they received for their first dose is not available in the UK, the most similar alternative should be offered as per the [advice here](#) (see sections on vaccine interchangeability guidance).

**Vaccine Update: issue 322, June 2021, COVID-19 phase 2 special edition**

Please see below link for the latest edition of Vaccine Update which focuses on phase 2 of the rollout.

[Vaccine update: issue 322, June 2021, COVID-19 phase 2 special edition - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccine-update-322-june-2021-covid-19-phase-2-special-edition)

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