NHS England and NHS Improvement – South West

Integrated South West Public Health Team

Regional Clinical Advice Response Service 30/07/21

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

Please note that from Monday 2nd August CARS has become ICARS and will now operate from 9am - 5pm Monday to Friday.

PLEASE SHARE WITH ALL RELEVANT STAFF INVOLVED WITH THE VACCINATION PROGRAMME

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Reminder – ICARS

Please note that as of Monday 2nd August, CARS will become ICARS and will operate Monday to Friday 9am – 5pm. All Covid-19 vaccination related queries or incidents should be sent to the following address: england.swicars@nhs.net

Please see attached slide set for more information.

Covid-19 Vaccination Misinformation – Urgent Reminder

There have been several attempts recently to undermine the Covid-19 vaccination programme by sharing misinformation with GP practices and others. As you will already be aware, these messages and their senders should not be engaged with and instead they should be forwarded and reported to the following email address where they will be investigated thoroughly: rru@cabinetoffice.gov.uk

AZ Vaccine Manufactured in India –Additional Information from DHSC

Following on from the additional queries raised around the AZ vaccine

that has been manufactured in India, we have been in touch with DHSC (who are leading on this piece of work) again. They have now provided us with the following additional lines regarding this issue:

- All AstraZeneca vaccines given in the UK are the same product and appear on the NHS COVID Pass as Vaxzevria.
- The European Medicines Agency, as well as our own medicines regulator, has authorised this vaccine and travel should not be affected.
- No Covishield vaccines have been administered in the UK.
- All doses used in the UK have been subject to rigorous safety and quality checks, including individual batch testing and physical site inspections, by the UK medicine's regulator, the MHRA.

- Ensuring safe and open travel with our global partners is a clear priority and we are engaging with international partners on certification to ensure travel for vaccinated people is unhindered in the future.
- We have spoken to the EU Commission who have confirmed that neither the Commission nor the EMA has advised Member States against accepting travellers vaccinated with 'SII doses'.
- Our High Commission in Malta has been discussing this issue with the Maltese Government, who have agreed that they will accept the NHS certificate with the EMA approved AZ Vaxzevria dose.
- Astra Zeneca vaccine will be recognised in the same way as any other.

On the stories specifically about Malta last week:

- The Maltese authorities have agreed to amend their travel advice so this should not happen again.
- The government of Malta has advised they will recognise an NHS Covid Pass as valid evidence for entry. They set this out themselves here: https://foreignandeu.gov.mt/en/Pages/Travel-Advice.aspx
- Anyone who has had their second dose of Astra Zeneca vaccine two weeks or more ago can get an NHS Covid Pass, as set out here: https://foreignandeu.gov.mt/en/Pages/Travel-Advice.aspx
- The Malta Deputy PM / Health Minister's page also links directly to our own travel advice and the Malta International Airport page has been updated to reflect the change: https://deputyprimeminister.gov.mt/en/health-promotion/covid-19/Pages/travel.aspx and https://www.maltairport.com/covid19/arrival/

Workforce Considerations For Phase 3 (Children aged 16-17) Of The Vaccination Programme

Please see attached document for guidance on vaccinating children aged 16-17 years as part of Phase 3 of the vaccination programme.

All COVID-19 vaccination queries and incidents should be directed to:
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