

Adult Social Care
Delivery Directorate
39 Victoria Street
Westminster
London
SW1H 0EU

To:
Social Care Providers & Employers
Agency Providers

Cc:
All Directors of Adult Social Care
CCG Accountable Officers
LA Vaccination Leads
NHS Vaccination Programme SRO

21 April 2021

Dear Colleagues

Vaccination for Eligible Social Care Workers – Access to vaccination via the National Booking Service and Primary Care

We are pleased to confirm that direct access to appointments for eligible health and social care workers reopened as planned on 19 April.

The National Booking Service (NBS) will now allow those aged 18-29 who are eligible for a vaccine to access some vaccination sites and receive the Moderna vaccine, providing an alternative to the AstraZeneca vaccine, in line with updated MHRA guidance issued last week.

On 31 March NHS England wrote to the NHS, including Primary Care Networks (PCNs) – which cover all GP practices in England – setting out the need to continue to work with local partners and ensure that plans are in place to enable eligible social care workers who have yet to take up the offer of vaccination to do so. This letter can be accessed [here](#).

We are pleased to confirm these arrangements will remain in place. So, PCNs should routinely offer vaccination through second, third and any subsequent visits to care homes (cohort 1), as well as other residential settings, for staff (including new starters) who may now want to take up the offer. PCNs and Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) are also expected to ensure arrangements are in place to provide first vaccinations to those yet to receive their first

vaccination. Eligible social care workers should therefore now be able to contact their local GP practice to arrange vaccination. Local CCGs are expected to support local practices to organise and deliver this.

Eligibility checks will remain in place when using the online or telephone service. Social care workers will need to self-declare at the point of booking and will be asked for identification and written authorisation when they attend their vaccination appointment. Appropriate forms of identification include a work photo ID card, authorisation letter from the local authority, a signed letter of authorisation from their employer or wage slip that is dated within the last 3 months. Where work photo ID is not available, alternative photographic identification is required to support verification.

You may also be aware that new advice was also released by [JCVI](#) on 16 April which advises that it is preferable for pregnant women in the UK to be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines where available. There is no evidence to suggest that other vaccines are unsafe for pregnant women, but more research is needed. The advice, published in Public Health England's [Green Book](#), a clinical professional guide for vaccinators in the UK, still advises that pregnant women should discuss the risks and benefits of vaccination with their clinician, including the latest evidence on safety and which vaccines they should receive.

Please pass on these important updates to your staff so they are aware of these opportunities to take up the offer of vaccination including changes on NBS and where they can discuss concerns relating to pregnancy.

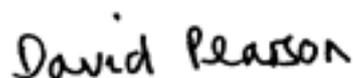
If you, or any member of your staff, encounter any difficulties with these arrangements we would ask that you immediately escalate any concerns to your local NHS vaccination lead who can be contacted via your local CCG or your local authority vaccination lead. LA points of contact can be found [here](#).

Once again, we thank you for your continued work to support the vaccination programme.

Yours sincerely



Dr Nikita Kanani
Medical Director for Primary Care
NHS England and NHS
Improvement



Sir David Pearson
Chair, Social Care Sector Covid-19
Taskforce