



South Central Ambulance Service **NHS**
NHS Foundation Trust

November 2021

Care Home Provider
By email

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Dear Provider,

Further to our previous letter dated 28th October 2021 we have reviewed the new guidance published and our process going forward for non-emergency patient transport services (NEPTS) and residents living in care homes. In light of the new guidance we would like to retract our previous letter as we are now in a position to update you on our processes.

The new government regulations came into force on 11 November 2021, requiring all Care Quality Commission (CQC) regulated care homes providing nursing or personal care in England to refuse entry to anybody who cannot evidence they have had two doses of a Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approved COVID-19 vaccine, or they have a specified exemption. Implementing this government regulation will help to reduce the spread of COVID-19 in care homes and while frontline 999 crews are exempt from this guidance, patient transport team members are included. Please see link below to the FAQ's.

[C1372 ii FAQs vaccinations-for-NHS-staff-entering-care-homes-29-October-2021-version-3.pdf \(england.nhs.uk\)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/c1372-ii-faqs-vaccinations-for-nhs-staff-entering-care-homes-29-october-2021-version-3.pdf)

We can confirm that processes are in place to mean that SCAS NEPTS staff will be compliant with these regulations. All SCAS NEPTS crew will continue to wear level 2 PPE, adhere to social distancing and clean down requirements as per current covid requirements.

We appreciate our original letter may have caused some concern, in what has been a difficult week for our Care Home colleagues. We sincerely apologise for any distress caused and hope the above clarification provides assurance that we are determined to continue supporting our Care Home residents to ensure only double vaccinated NEPTS crews and volunteer service drivers attend.

We thank you for your support and cooperation.

Non-Emergency Patient Transport Directorate.

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www.scas.nhs.uk.