



Information

for adult social care providers

CORONAVIRUS
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YOURSELF
& OTHERS**



Bulletin 108 – 23 September 2021

Dear Colleague,

As ever, this bulletin contains updates on a range of issues, including the detailed booking information for adult social care workers' COVID-19 boosters.

Mandatory vaccinations in care homes – workers' dose 2

The deadline for workers in care homes to receive their first dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine was 16 September. It is now imperative that staff go on to receive their second dose in time for the final deadline of 11 November. Please stress the importance of the second dose to your workers – they should already have an appointment booked, but if they have had to cancel for any reason, please ensure that they reschedule.

Information on how to book can be found at <https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/my-health/coronavirus-advice/coronavirus-vaccine/>.

Vaccine doses not showing on NHS records

We have received a number of reports that workers have had second COVID-19 vaccine dose but it is not showing on their NHS record. Where a worker experiences this please email llrvaccineenquiries.llrpcl@nhs.net.

New flu vaccine and COVID-19 booster communications campaign

Frontline adult social care workers are eligible for a free flu and COVID-19 booster vaccine to help boost their immunity this winter.

A new communications toolkit and range of marketing materials, including Q&A leaflets, posters, social media graphics and email signatures, have been launched for providers to encourage care colleagues to taken up both vaccines. Printed materials are available to pre-order now, and digital materials are available on the Public Health England website [here](#).

COVID-19 booster programme - overview

DHSC wrote to adult social care providers on 20 September about the administration of COVID-19 boosters – the letter can be viewed [here](#). It explains that the booster programme is being rolled out to the same priority groups as in the first round of COVID-19 vaccinations. This means that care home residents; health and social care workers; people aged over 50; those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19; adult carers; and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals, will be prioritised for boosters.

Those eligible will receive their booster no earlier than 6 months after their second dose. This will ensure that the protection which vaccines provide for those most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 will be maintained and enhanced over the coming autumn and winter months.

Boosters for care home residents are being delivered through roving vaccination teams who will visit care homes. Staff may also be offered a booster during these visits; however they can also receive their vaccination through other centres, as described below.

The national guide to COVID-19 boosters can be found [here](#).

COVID-19 boosters – detailed information for adult social care workers

We are beginning the roll-out of the COVID-19 booster vaccine for health and social care staff, as part of our winter resilience plans. Booster appointments are available in LLR from 20 September.

It is critical that you receive your COVID-19 booster as soon as you are eligible.

Eligibility for the COVID-19 booster vaccine

Adult social care workers are eligible for their COVID-19 booster six months from the date of their second COVID vaccination. This is because early data that suggests immunity may decrease six months after the second vaccination.

If you book a booster appointment earlier than six months after your second vaccine, you will be turned away and re-booked for a later appointment. To check your eligibility, use the table below.

<i>Your second dose date (2021)</i>	<i>Book your booster dose from</i>
Up to and including 22 March	20 September
23-29 March	27 September
30 March – 5 April	4 October
6-12 April	11 October
13-19 April	18 October
20-26 April	25 October
27 April – 5 May	1 November
4-10 May	8 November

11-17 May	15 November
18-24 May	22 November
25-31 May	29 November
1-7 June	6 December
8-14 June	13 December
15-21 June	20 December
22-28 June	27 December

Full vaccination (two doses) has been effective at breaking the link between COVID-19 and death.

Comirnaty (Pfizer) Vaccine

We will be providing Pfizer (now known as Comirnaty) vaccine as the booster dose, irrespective of the vaccine you received at the first or second dose.

COVID-19 booster and your annual flu vaccination

A break of 7 days between your COVID and flu vaccines is no longer required. With increasing levels of social contact, it is expected that during winter COVID-19 will co-circulate alongside other respiratory viruses, including seasonal flu. Together, they have the potential to add substantially to the 'winter pressures' usually faced by the NHS and social care.

Because of the increased risk of death associated with catching flu and COVID, it is strongly recommended that you have both vaccines as soon as you are offered them.

Colleagues booking their COVID booster after 1 October will be offered the opportunity to receive the flu vaccine at their COVID booster appointment, subject to flu vaccine availability.

Booking your COVID-19 booster appointment

Do any of the following apply to you?

- Currently have a fever
- Had a severe allergic reaction to your first vaccination and/or are allergic to the ingredients of the vaccine
- Had onset of the symptoms of COVID-19 in the last four weeks and/or tested positive for COVID-19 in the last two weeks
- Had your second COVID-19 vaccine less than six months ago
- Been part of a COVID-19 or flu vaccine research trial or study (BELIEVE or DIRECT)

If you answer yes to any of these questions, please do not book your vaccine. Email VacHub@uhl-tr.nhs.uk for advice, or return to booking online at a later date.

If you answered no to all the questions, please continue as below:

1. Decide which hospital you would prefer to attend for your vaccine appointment:

- Choose Leicester General Hospital by clicking here [https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/pre_timescreen.php?id=\\$2y\\$10\\$MyYLuozqBISYQgyU04tDX.BELprxQL7Dms6e9m9EPb51qOzF6Da2m](https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/pre_timescreen.php?id=$2y$10$MyYLuozqBISYQgyU04tDX.BELprxQL7Dms6e9m9EPb51qOzF6Da2m) OR
- Choose Glenfield Hospital by clicking here [https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/pre_timescreen.php?id=\\$2y\\$10\\$Tjl12cwYp2Ka3eW2IlxTU.1noFfkJu0afPx47nVp5mc6L7ypE4D2](https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/pre_timescreen.php?id=$2y$10$Tjl12cwYp2Ka3eW2IlxTU.1noFfkJu0afPx47nVp5mc6L7ypE4D2) OR
- Choose Leicester Royal Infirmary by clicking here [https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/pre_timescreen.php?id=\\$2y\\$10\\$mpAPkkRQVI9g77\\$fl6t4OhYN777adOarr349CU.ZJ0uAfJtCOlu1](https://www.swiftqueue.co.uk/pre_timescreen.php?id=$2y$10$mpAPkkRQVI9g77$fl6t4OhYN777adOarr349CU.ZJ0uAfJtCOlu1)

2. You will be taken to a site called Swift Queue

3. Enter the pin CovidVL19

4. Login using your previous details. If you need to reset your password, follow the 'forgot my password' link on the login screen.

5. During the booking process you will be sent a confirmation email – please check your junk/spam folder if this doesn't automatically appear in your inbox.

Please do not attend your appointment if you have had sickness or diarrhoea in the last 48 hours, or have any COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms. If you become symptomatic you can rebook your appointment by clicking the booking hyperlink and following instructions to cancel.

Priority booking for clinically vulnerable workers

If you are clinically vulnerable please call 0300 303 1563 and you will be booked in. You may also use this number if for any reason you are unable to access the online portal for booking.

Attending your appointment

Please come with a work identification card with a photo; if you do not have one, please bring a wage slip and standard identification such as a passport or driving licence. Do not attend with anyone else and ensure you follow hospital social distancing and mask rules when in the vaccine centre.

Vaccination centre details:

- Leicester General Hospital Vaccine Centre, L'eat Restaurant, Leicester General Hospital, Gwendolen Road, Leicester, LE5 4PW. Click here for directions and hospital map <https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/patients/getting-to-hospital/leicester-general-hospital/>
- Glenfield Hospital Vaccine Centre, 'L'eat Restaurant, Glenfield Hospital, Groby Road, Leicester, LE3 9PQ. Click here for directions and hospital map <https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/patients/getting-to-hospital/glenfield-hospital/>
- Leicester Royal Infirmary Vaccine Centre, L'eat Restaurant, Leicester Royal Infirmary, Infirmary Square, Leicester LE1 5WW. Click here for directions and hospital map <https://www.leicestershospitals.nhs.uk/patients/getting-to-hospital/leicester-royal-infirmary/>

After your appointment

After your vaccinations, you will need to continue to follow our COVID-19 infection prevention guidance, including wearing the correct PPE and taking part in any screening programmes (such as lateral flow testing).

‘Connecting Together’ respiratory infection webinar for care homes

East Midlands Academic Health Science Network is holding a free learning and networking webinar for care home staff, managers and those who support the care homes sector in the East Midlands, to discuss respiratory infections in the care home setting this winter.

Dr Vivienne Weston, Consultant Microbiologist and Community Infection Control Doctor, Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust will lead a session on ‘A focus on respiratory infections in the care home setting’. Links with managing deterioration and advance care planning will also be covered.

The webinar will be held online on Wednesday 6 October, 13.00-14.30, and you can [register here](#).

Government funding for social care

Earlier this month the Government announced plans to finance adult social care through tax changes, and set out its aim to modernise the social care system to ensure it is better integrated with healthcare.

From April 2022, national insurance contributions for employees, employers and the self-employed will rise by 1.25 percentage points, and there will be the same rise in dividends tax. From April 2023, while the rises will stay the same, the tax rise will be described as a health and social care levy, and will appear separately on tax records.

For the first three years, much of the money being raised will finance the NHS to catch up with elective surgery and other appointments delayed due to COVID-19. There is a pledge of £500m over three years for social care workforce training and recruitment, and extra money set aside to local authorities to help deliver social care, and to deliver the integration.

Plans for how much individuals will have to pay towards care were also announced, currently if individuals have assets worth more than £23,250, they have to pay for their social care, and there is no cap on costs. Under the new system, anyone with assets below £20,000 will not have to pay anything, although they might have to make a contribution from any income. Those with assets from £20,000 to £100,000 and above will have to contribute, on a sliding scale. Those with assets above £100,000 must meet all fees until their assets fall below £100,000. There will be a maximum payment towards care of £86,000, which is about the equivalent of three years of full-time care.

Later this year there will be a white paper setting out longer-term plans for social care and greater integration with health.

Yours sincerely,

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The archive of all previous COVID-19 provider bulletins released since March 2020 can be found at <https://resources.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/working-with-you-during-coronavirus>