



Department
of Health &
Social Care

CARE

To:

Providers of CQC regulated adult social
care services

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1 February 2021

Dear Colleagues,

COVID-19 Vaccination of Social Care Workers – the next stage

Thank you for everything you are doing to support the COVID-19 vaccination programme for your staff. I am sure you will agree that it is really encouraging news that COVID-19 vaccinations for social care workers are progressing well.

Due to the pace of the work in collating information on the requirements for, and take up of, vaccinations by care staff, we are asking for your help.

The best way to understand how many people need to have the vaccination, have been offered a vaccination and how many have had it, is through the Capacity Tracker which many of you are already completing.

In order to provide a single, central source of information about the levels of uptake of the vaccine among all social care staff, some questions are being added to the capacity tracker this week to ensure a consistent mechanism for monitoring and reporting. These questions will be ready for completion from Tuesday 2nd February and we are asking all care home and domiciliary care providers to respond so we can maintain an accurate picture of vaccination uptake across the country.

Regularly updated data will help us ensure that all frontline staff are vaccinated as quickly and efficiently as possible by addressing delays or blockages in the system. Local authorities who lead for adult social care and national organisations will be able to provide support where needed in response to the data.

We acknowledge that this is an additional requirement and we are very grateful for your co-operation and support. As the manager/employer of staff providing social care to people in the community, you should be aware of two communications being cascaded to promote the offer of vaccinations. The first communication is the covering letter of consent that you can download from [PHE](#) (also within Appendix 1a of the SOP) which we asked you to distribute to staff so they can begin to make an informed decision about vaccination. The second is the notice of eligibility which should be provided to you by your local authority. This second communication will be issued when

you confirm the number of eligible staff for vaccination along with preferences for accessing block bookings.

The notice of eligibility is key to unlocking the local offer of vaccination as a priority, keeping both the workforce and those they are providing care for protected. It should contain information about the options for accessing the vaccination appointments through block or self-directed bookings. All local authorities, through Directors of Adult Social Services, and where necessary, in consultation with Directors of Children's Services, have been asked to ensure employers are contacted to support the planning and access to vaccination and to provide a point of contact via their websites. We would encourage you, in the first instance, to contact your host local authority if you have not yet been contacted. If you are unable to make contact with your local authority and you need help in doing so, please contact us, providing your name, contact details and the local authority in which you are based via: covidvaccineasc@dhsc.gov.uk

Remember, all frontline care workers when attending for their vaccination will need to take with them:

- a physical copy of the notice of eligibility for vaccination from the local authority which their employer will provide
- their work identity badge or another form of photo ID
- a copy of the vaccination consent form - they may be asked to complete it there, although there is no requirement for written consent for vaccination. Staff should not send completed consent forms to any third party, who are not authorised to process this data

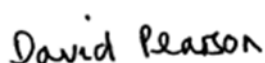
If you have not yet registered to access the Capacity Tracker as a user, you can click on the following link: [Capacity Tracker - Registration](#). New user guidance is available in Capacity Tracker and you can access support via the website and call centre on **0191 691 3729**.

Please contact necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net for further information and technical support.

Guidance for Capacity Tracker is at: <https://capacitytracker.com/resources/category/61/whats-new>.

Your continued support and collaboration are very much appreciated as we all continue to work at pace to ensure delivery of vaccinations across the social care workforce.

Yours sincerely,



Sir David Pearson

Chair- Social Care Sector

COVID-19 Support Task Force