



Department of Health & Social Care

CARE

To:

Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Adult Social Care Services
Adult Social Care providers

39 Victoria Street
Westminster
London
SW1H 0EU

20 September 2021

Dear colleagues,

Covid-19 booster vaccinations starting today

On 2 September I wrote to you in anticipation of a COVID-19 vaccines booster campaign, and to highlight the importance of staff getting their flu vaccinations as soon as possible. I am delighted to say that flu vaccinations are now beginning to be rolled out, and that administration of COVID-19 boosters will begin this week following final advice from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on 14 September.

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.

The NHS will contact eligible individuals directly. Those eligible will receive their booster no earlier than 6 months after their second dose. This will ensure that the protection 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 in primary care and hospital hubs.

A booster will be offered as either a single dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine or a half dose of the Moderna vaccine, following scientific evidence showing that both provide a strong booster response. This will be regardless of which vaccine the individual had previously received. In cases where people cannot be offered these vaccines for medical reasons, vaccination with the AstraZeneca vaccine may be considered for those who received AstraZeneca vaccine in their primary course.

Flu vaccinations for adult social care

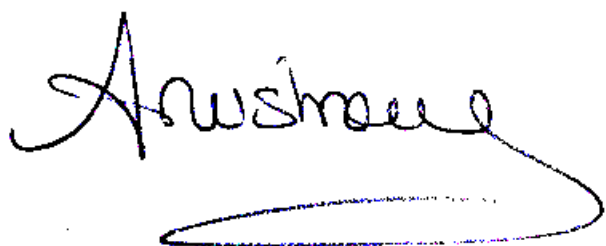
Flu and COVID-19 can both be life-threatening and spread more easily in winter when we are more likely to be indoors or in crowded spaces. We want to ensure that the sector is as well-protected from the flu virus as it can be.

I would like to encourage all social care staff to take up the offer of free flu vaccination this winter as soon as possible and not to wait to receive both their booster and flu vaccines at the same time as this may not be possible.

New Communications Toolkit

To support you, we have launched a new communications toolkit for the adult social care winter vaccines programme, which can be accessed [here](#). It includes a range of communication materials and information resources such as posters, Q&A leaflets for staff, social media graphics, and email signatures. Printed materials are available to pre-order now, and digital materials will be available to download from next week. Please do take advantage of the toolkit to aide communications about vaccines with your staff.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Armstrong', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish underneath.

Claire Armstrong

Director of Adult Social Care Delivery and Covid-19 Response