



Department
of Health &
Social Care

CARE

Adult Social Care Delivery Directorate
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To:

Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Adult Social Services
Older adult care home providers
Older adult care home managers
Younger adult care home providers
Younger adult care home managers

1 August 2022

Preparing for a COVID-19 Autumn Booster Campaign

Dear Colleagues,

On 15 July, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) issued advice¹ on the next COVID-19 booster campaign, to take place this Autumn. While we await the final details of the campaign, which will likely start in September, there is clear expectation the scope includes residents and staff in care homes and all frontline health and social care workers, and I therefore write to highlight some things we can collectively do to prepare.

For the vaccination of care home residents, it will be necessary to ensure that all consenting checks are in place to enable visiting NHS vaccination teams to maximise resident uptake when on site. Enclosed is a checklist of how to prepare, which includes actions you could be taking over the summer. Additionally, for any vaccination queries, please contact your local Enhanced Health in Care Homes ([EHCH](#)) lead.

The Autumn campaign includes care staff, many of whom will be eligible immediately for a booster. It's vitally important that all staff are encouraged to take an Autumn booster and to book one as soon as they are available. For those staff who are hesitant, we encourage the use of a range of Adult Social Care vaccine [marketing materials](#) available online, as well as signposting to further [information about the COVID-19 vaccine](#) on the NHS website. It's important to note also that, should any new staff come forward or require a first vaccination, the NHS maintains its offer of a COVID-19 vaccine.

¹ [JCVI updated statement on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for autumn 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)



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Alongside COVID-19, the threat from flu remains, and so social care workers and residents should get a seasonal flu vaccination. It is important to impress the need for vaccination, particularly with staff, to reduce flu circulating among settings. To this end, NHS teams will aim to deliver for residents, a 'coadministration' of both flu and COVID-19 boosters together, where this is possible.

For staff, large providers are expected to ensure occupational health schemes deliver seasonal flu vaccinations, but for those smaller providers that don't have this provision, the NHS offers a free flu vaccination to social care workers (more information is available in this [letter](#) on the NHS influenza programme for 2022 and 2023).

All social care workers are therefore encouraged to book their COVID-19 boosters (and where applicable flu vaccinations) as soon as they become eligible via the [national booking service](#). Care home staff *may* in some cases receive a coadministration of flu and COVID-19 vaccinations when NHS roving teams visit, but they should not expect this will always be possible, and managers should encourage vaccination as early as possible in the season.

Ensuring that government and local systems have a clear understanding of uptake of both COVID-19 and flu vaccination remains vital to both the successful rollout of boosters and our knowledge of attitudes towards vaccination. The Capacity Tracker (CT) remains an essential tool in this regard, and so I ask firstly that, if you haven't already done so, you ensure CT is fully up to date with Spring booster data. This will remain our ask throughout the Autumn and Winter, and the most contemporary data will ensure NHS vaccination teams can plan visits accordingly. For this reason, it is in all of our interests that data remains constant and accurate. If you require any assistance with using CT or would like to report an issue, please contact necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net.

I'm grateful to you all once more for the drive and commitment you have shown as we are living with Covid. Coronavirus and influenza are significant threats this winter and I ask you to raise awareness particularly among social care staff of the need to be up to date with both COVID-19 and flu vaccinations this Autumn and Winter.

Vaccination saves lives; reduces the risk from both coronavirus and influenza; and ultimately alleviates system pressures.

Kind regards,

Jenny Firth

Deputy Director of Adult Social Care Operational Resilience