

ICARS Newsletter

Immunisation Clinical Advice & Response Service



Issue 102: 26th August 2022

PLEASE SHARE THIS NEWSLETTERS WITH ALL RELEVANT STAFF INVOLVED WITH THE VACCINATION PROGRAMME

For any COVID-19 vaccination related queries, or to escalate an incident, please contact ICARS at england.swicars@nhs.net.

Please note that this service operates 9am-5pm Monday to Friday

To navigate this newsletter, please ctrl + click on the contents to take you to the contents

Contents:

- NEW: Autumn COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine programme
- NEW: Overall COVID-19 and Flu Programme Updates
- NEW: Spikevax® Updates
- REMINDER: Future Vaccination Strategy
- NEW: Vaccination Supply Information
- NEW: Phase 5 Updates
- NEW: Clinical Safety, Operational and Equipment Information
- NEW: Workforce Support and Training Resources
- UPDATES/REMINDER: Learning Resources

NEW: Autumn COVID-19 booster and flu vaccine programme

1. Autumn COVID-19 Booster and Flu program system letter

Following the updated JCVI guidance of 15 August on the autumn 2022 COVID-19 booster vaccination programme (available [here](#)), a [system letter](#) has been published outlining the

next steps for the COVID-19 and flu programmes.

2. Regional Care home and Housebound ambitions clarification

Please see below for clarification of the Regional Care home and Housebound ambitions for the Autumn Booster Programme:

All Older Adult Care homes complete by Sun 16 Oct.

All (age appropriate) Housebound complete by Sun 16 Oct.

This is 6 weeks from 5 Sept The 40% in the first 2 weeks has been removed.

Co-administration with Flu should be achieved where possible, so if there may be less activity during w/c 5 Sept to achieve more co-administration later.

3. Co-administration of COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines

Although not mandated by JCVI or DHSC, sites are encouraged to co-promote and co-administer flu and COVID-19 vaccines where clinically and operationally feasible.

There is an exception when administering Nuvaxovid (Novavax), as there needs to be a separation of 7 days.

4. Training considerations for delivery of flu and co-administration

The [Flu Immunisation Training recommendations](#) set out the minimum standards of training for flu immunisers to administer adult vaccinations. All existing COVID-19 vaccinators will only be required to complete sessions 1 and 2 of the [Flu immunisation e-learning modules](#) and pass the module assessments and competency assessment to deliver flu. The pack is currently being updated following feedback to display the third module within the flu immunisation e-learning that requires completion to enable the delivery of flu to children.

5. Autumn COVID-19 booster resources

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) [resources](#) for the autumn booster campaign are now available to [order](#). Assets include [patient information leaflet](#) (C22AUBEN), [a record card](#), [autumn booster stickers](#), and the [what to expect after your COVID-19 vaccination](#) leaflet. Please ensure you have ordered sufficient stock of UKHSA Autumn Booster products. Materials are available in a number of different languages and accessible formats.

There is a new design for the autumn booster [sticker](#). Please ensure everyone who receives a [booster](#) is given:

- [Record card](#) (COV2021311)
- [Sticker](#) (COVIDAUT22)
- [What to expect leaflet](#) (COV2021V6EN).

6. Vaccination Communications – public facing

A [press release](#) was issued on 18 August announcing the rollout of the Autumn booster programme from September. A core script and communications toolkit will be shared through the VDP FutureNHS workspace from week commencing 29 August, with marketing assets for staff becoming available at around the same time. Supporting media, stakeholder and social media activity will begin during the following week.

NEW: Overall COVID-19 and Flu Programme Updates

1. Cohort Eligibility and Operational Status

[Cohort eligibility and operational status](#) has been reviewed. A note has been added to confirm that children aged 12 who are in academic year 7 should receive Comirnaty 10 micrograms/dose Concentrate, as per item 2 in this bulletin. This status will next be reviewed during the week commencing 29 August, therefore the validity period stated on the document covers a three weeks' timeframe.

2. Flu PGD

The flu Patient Group Direction is now available and is valid from the 1st of September until the 1st of April 2023. Please find the link [here](#).

3. Green Book Chapter 14a – update

Updates to the [Green Book Chapter 14a](#) were published on 17 August. There are a number of significant updates and careful review of the document is advised. Some of the main updates include but are not limited to:

Vaxzevria® (Astra Zeneca) will no longer be available from the end of August.

Nuvaxovid is a non mRNA vaccine that has been approved for use in the UK and will be deployed to selected centres. Further information will be provided very shortly. Nuvaxovid should not be co-administered with influenza and should be separated by 7 days due to an attenuated response in trials. The post vaccine observation period remains in place for individuals given Nuvaxovid.

Spikevax Bivalent dose volume for booster dose is **0.5mL**. This is different to the Spikevax Original product at 0.25mL. **The initial supplies of Spikevax Bivalent will not have 'bivalent' on the packaging but will instead say Spikevax Zero(0)/Omicron(o). They will also initially come in a mix of 2.5mL and 5mL multidose vials.**

Comirnaty Bivalent is a **ready to use** presentation with 6 doses per vial, 10-week post thaw expiry and 12 hrs once punctured. This vaccine is currently going through regulatory approval so this is provisional and is not currently being used in practice within England.

The cohort eligibility for autumn campaign is outlined but can also be found in the [system letter](#). The autumn campaign expected to run September to December.

Recommendations for restarting vaccination for patients who have undergone stem cell transplant or CAR-T therapy. Specialists are expected to advise patients about all revaccinations. Revaccination will need to be administered under PSD and should be recorded in POC systems as booster doses. It should include a free text note to explain the revaccination is due to stem cell transplant and whether it is 1st revaccination dose, 2nd revaccination dose etc.

For children aged 5-11 years old not in a clinical risk group: 'Two doses of the paediatric vaccine (see the section on age specific recommendations on vaccine type) should be offered with an interval of at least 12 weeks between doses. This one-off programme applies to those aged 5 to 11 years old, including those who turn five years of age before the end of August 2022. Subject to further clarification, on-going eligibility in 2022/23, after the one off-programme, is expected to be for children in the academic years where children are aged 11 or 12 years old (in England that is Year 7). Use of the paediatric formulation is advised for commencing (and for completing) vaccination for children in the relevant academic year.'

4. Notification of vaccination invites, prompts and reminders due this week

The below notifications are due to arrive in the current period. Sites are asked to load NBS and LBS appointment slots and walk-in capacity to accommodate potential increases in demand, ensuring adequate capacity outside of school hours for younger cohorts.

Past:

- Boosters 16+ and 12-15 At Risk 1st and 2nd reminders
Circa sub 48k SMS and e-mails to arrive 23 August and letters 24 August
- Bespoke 1st dose reminders (Braille preference)
Circa <100 Letters to arrive 24 August
- Evergreens 5+
Circa 51k letters to arrive 24 August
- Boosters 16+ Learning Disability
Circa 250 letters to arrive 24 August
- Evergreens 5+
Circa 51k letters to arrive 24 August
- Boosters 16+ Learning Disability
Circa 250 letters to arrive 24 August

Future:

- Bespoke [Pilot] Booster Reminders 16+ Severely Immunosuppressed in Urdu
54k letters to arrive 25 August
- Bespoke [Pilot] Booster Reminders 16+ Severely Immunosuppressed in English [for those with Urdu preference]
53k letters to arrive 25 August
- 2nd Dose Prompts 18+ and 5-17 Not at risk
Circa 56k SMS to arrive 24 August and letters to arrive 27 August
- 2nd Dose overdue 16+ reminders (three times max)
Circa 32k SMS & e-mails to arrive 24 August and letters 27 August
- Bespoke [Pilot] 2nd Dose Reminders 18+ [Chinese pref] in English [Chinese pref] in Chinese
Circa 1kk e-mails and letters to arrive 30 August
- Bespoke [Pilot] 2nd Dose Reminders 18+ [Chinese pref] in Chinese
Circa 1k e-mails and letters to arrive 30 August
- Bespoke [Pilot] 2nd Dose reminders 18+ [Polish pref] in Polish
Circa 5k e-mails and letters to arrive 30 August
- Bespoke [Pilot] 2nd Dose reminders 18+ [Polish pref] in English
Circa 5k e-mails and letters to arrive 30 August

Look ahead *(may be subject to amendment):*

- 2nd Dose Prompts 5-17 At risk include Severely Immunosuppressed
Circa 3k e-mails to arrive 31 August and letters 3 September
- 2nd Dose overdue reminder for 12-15 (At Risk & Non-At Risk) + 5-11 At Risk
Circa 16k e-mails to arrive 31 August and letters 3 September

NEW: Spikevax® Updates

1. New National Protocol for Spikevax Bivalent and the new Patient Group Directive (PGD) for Spikevax Bivalent

The new National Protocol for Spikevax Bivalent and the new Patient Group Directive (PGD) for Spikevax Bivalent have now been published.

They can be accessed at the following links:

- New National Protocol for Spikevax Bivalent can be found [here](#)
- New National PGD for Spikevax Bivalent can be found [here](#)

2. Changes for Autumn patient booking and recording vaccination activity for updated Spikevax® Bivalent

NBS Bookings – Site managers can post the new Moderna Spikevax® Bivalent booster appointments in QFlow using the **existing NBS Moderna Spikevax Original service line** and booster type. Appointments should be scheduled from 12 September 2022.

Sites are also asked to no longer post any Moderna D1 appointments. Guidance on posting appointments can be found [here](#) and operational guidance for Q-Flow can be found [here](#).

Recording – Point of care (PoC) systems will be updated to simplify screening and re-order the COVID-19 clinical screening questions and warning messages to the clinical assessment process. Vaccine product-specific references will be removed and screening will be aligned with the up-to-date Green Book guidance.

Spikevax bivalent will be recordable but may not be presented as a 'Suggest booster type' alongside Spikevax Original and Comirnaty 30 Concentrate at the start of the campaign.

Please refer to the Green Book for guidance on the appropriate vaccine to give to a patient. Sites should ensure that the COVID-19 vaccination event is recorded on the PoC system on the same day that it is administered and that all mandatory fields are completed accurately. If you have any questions or need support with any of these changes, support is available every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 1:30pm to 2pm. Please follow this [link](#) to join.

3. Spikevax® Original pause of supplies

Ahead of the Autumn 2022 COVID-19 booster campaign, the [JCVI guidance](#) recommends the use of a single type of vaccine for the booster campaign where possible.

Spikevax® Original allocations and supplies have been paused to all hospital hubs, vaccination centres, LVS PCN sites and community pharmacies (CP) from Monday 22 August 2022. The full communication can be found [here](#).

Clinically for a small number of individuals who started their primary course recently with Spikevax®, this will mean consideration is given to completing a heterologous primary course as outlined in the [Green Book Chapter 14a](#):

"For individuals who started the schedule and who attend for vaccination where the same vaccine is not available or suitable, or if the first product received is unknown or not available, one dose of the locally available product should be given to complete the primary course."

4. Changes to Spikevax® administration needles and syringes from September 2022

UKHSA have informed the programme that the combined needle and syringe for the administration of Spikevax® Original and Spikevax® Bivalent is changing from 1 September.

The current BD Flu+ 23G x 25mm 1ml syringe combined needle and syringe (CNS) used for the administration of Spikevax® Original vaccine will be switched from 1 September to the Owen Mumford Unifine Safety Retractable Needle 25G x 25mm & 1ml Syringe. The first supplies of this new Owen Mumford CNS will be made to sites from the week commencing 5 September, alongside any orders of Spikevax Bivalent. Once received, the Owen Mumford product should be utilised immediately for all vaccinations of Spikevax Bivalent vaccine. Changes have been made to the relevant Specialist Pharmaceutical Services (SPS) [SOPs](#). Education and training materials produced by the supplier, including a video and poster, are available [here](#). Please ensure all colleagues who will be required to vaccinate using this CNS have completed the training prior to the 5 September.

UKHSA have advised that vaccinators should not experience a difference when using the needles and syringes. Preparation and administration of the vaccine should continue using correct existing practice, which remains the same.

The Owen Mumford CNS comes in packs of 100 and will be sent on a one for one basis alongside vaccine deliveries. As the minimum order quantity for Spikevax Bivalent is 50 doses there might some oversupply for orders of less than 100 doses. This will be managed by the on-off logic built into the Ordering Platform. This logic automatically reduces or removes the CNS from future orders until the oversupply equals or nearly equals the quantity of vaccine doses it has received.

For citizens who are morbidly obese (M/O), the PROSUM, GBUK 23G x 38mm needle and syringe, will be supplied as the M/O needle for the administration of Spikevax Bivalent (note: this is the same CNS as used for Spikevax Original). Any remaining stock of BD Flu+ CNS that sites may hold should be removed from use upon receipt of the new CNS product, but should be retained by sites to offer resilience in the event of any issues with supply or quality of the new CNS.

5. 15 Minute wait for Spikevax Bivalent vaccine

In 2021 during surge activity, the MHRA suspended the 15-minute wait period for mRNA vaccines. Ahead of the latest booster campaign, where the JCVI have outlined which vaccines will be used in the programme, the MHRA have extended the suspension of the 15-minute wait to Spikevax Bivalent.

This is outlined in the [Green Book Chapter 14a page 42](#):

“The suspension of the 15-minute wait period in individuals without a history of allergy has since been agreed by the Commission on human Medicines and also applies to the Moderna Bivalent (Spikevax Bivalent).”

REMINDER: Future Vaccination Strategy

This [letter of 22 June 2022](#) highlights the intention to seek your views on a future vaccination and immunisation strategy. A market engagement exercise has now been launched. This is an opportunity to share your views on what is working well and what could be improved to maximise uptake of vaccinations, reduce variation, and continue to protect people and their families. You are invited to contribute on the future shape of vaccination services **before 30 September** via [the portal](#) using quote/tender 56405.

NEW: Vaccination Supply Information

1. Consumables

There have been a few questions lately regarding consumables and if they will be supplied with the vaccine for the Autumn Programme. Please be assured by the following information from EECL *"We're still going to be sending out the medical consumables with the vaccine as we do currently. It will also be possible to order vaccine related consumables on Foundry should the site have a shortage."*

2. Supplies

It is no longer possible to order SIL items for sites – and if a site requires something they should see if others in the area have the item spare or they will need to obtain through their usual ordering route. Please contact RVOC if you would like them to find out on behalf of a site if there is stock in a system or neighbouring system.

3. Stock at Innova

There is still a lot of stock being held at Innova. This can be ordered by NHS trusts but not GPs or CPs. However, an NHS Trust could order on behalf of a CP or GP surgery. All stock is free, but the cost of transportation is to be covered by the site/system obtaining the stock.

If you have any queries regarding this please contact RVOC england.swcovid19-voc1@nhs.net

4. Release of new Vaccine Transfer Application in Foundry

A new application in the COVID-19 Vaccine Workspace will shortly be released in Foundry to manage all vaccine transfers, including Mutual Aid. The new application will fully replace the current transfer process, which is resource intensive for region and system colleagues, relying heavily on emails, local knowledge of sites, word document forms and Foundry mutual aid log. In addition, the current process also operates with a time lag, in terms of transfer activity being visible in site stock records, which can lead to sites being allocated incorrect stock levels during the allocations process.

The launch of this new application **does not** impact the current [Mutual Aid policy](#), which outlines the different circumstances in which movement of vaccine is permitted and should continue to be followed. Systems should note that a revision to the Mutual Aid policy is currently undergoing approval and will be published once finalised.

Improvements the new transfer application brings:

- Fully online interactive real-time application - systems can now receive transfer requests directly from their sites and communicate with them in the application. Including confirming approvals. Removing the need for emails and the sharing of word documents.
- Reduced time searching for a donor sites – the new application provides systems with a holistic view of stock across their system, including stock levels, upcoming deliveries, expiry data etc. Saving systems making multiple phone calls to seek out a suitable donor site.
- Ease of transfer reporting – all approved requests are automatically logged into Foundry and Site Stock Manager, reducing admin burden for systems.
- Streamlined communication with sites – sites can login to Site Stock Manager to request a transfer and see the status as it progresses, reducing the communication burden on systems and regions.
- More accurate allocations – transfers will be accounted for in regional allocation plans as the data will flow into the Perpetual Inventory tool, avoiding sites receiving less/more stock than they require.

This application has been tested at site and system level to enable the current manual process including the Foundry online mutual aid log to be withdrawn from use on the 2 September. All new transfer requests from the 2 September onwards must be managed through the new application. Until the 2 September the application, which can be accessed via the COVID-19 Vaccine Workspace in Foundry, will be running in 'test' mode; providing all relevant system users the opportunity to explore it, including creating 'test' transfers before go-live.

Please note: All transfers must continue to be recorded via the existing process until the 2 September. If you are unable to access the application but believe you should be able to, please contact vaccination.operationaldata@nhs.net.

A 'how to' video and guide will be available to support users within the application itself. If additional support is required, please contact vaccination.operationaldata@nhs.net.

We will shortly be writing to sites to let them know that from the 3 September onwards they will need to make all transfer requests via Site Stock Manager

5. New Security Awareness

It has been advised via DHSC of two new fake leaflets which have begun circulating. If you receive any reports around these, please follow our usual security process - complete an SBAR and submit this to the RVOC. These reports help us build the National picture of behaviours.



NEW: Phase 5 Updates

1. Vaccs HH/VC/LVS: Phase 5 site readiness and vaccine assurance

The Vaccine Assurance Checklist has been updated. The checklist provides a standardised series of questions for sites to consider and answer as part of site readiness activities, either ahead of a new campaign launch or when requesting use of a vaccine which they have not previously received and used. A new vaccine “Moderna mRNA (Spikevax) bivalent Omicron BA.1/Original ‘wild-type’ vaccine” will commence use by September 2022. All sites will need to complete this checklist ahead of going live for the autumn campaign. It forms part of the site readiness process, aligned to communications from the national and regional operational teams. Evidence may be required from sites to confirm readiness. This will be determined at regional level, working with ICB/ICS colleagues.

Completion of the checklist will indicate whether sites will be ready to safely deploy COVID-19 vaccines, with a focus on process and plans rather than end products. Clinical and Operational site leads will be responsible for ensuring that the overall governance, systems, and processes are safe, and that all preparations are completed ahead of receiving and using vaccines.

2. Clarification on Phase 5 arrangements on vaccine-related consumables and needle disposal

Further to queries recently received, providers should note the following information concerning the arrangements on vaccine-related consumables and needle disposal. Vaccine-related consumables including needles, syringes and street wipes will continue to be supplied nationally for free. Since September 2021, practices and all other providers of the COVID-19 vaccination programme have been required to secure their own consumables under business as usual arrangements.

There has been no recent change in arrangements in relation to Phase 5. The provision of clinical waste receptacles (i.e. sharps bins) is provided as part of CW services already commissioned by NHS England / Integrated Care Boards / Property Services buildings. This also includes the cost of disposal of clinical waste by the existing clinical waste services providers.

More information about waste management and who to contact for more support can be found [here](#). Note all other waste not considered clinical (e.g., domestic, recycling, confidential) is the responsibility of the NHS service provider to fund and manage, as per existing BAU arrangements.

3. Phase 5 Enhanced Service specification for general practice

We have had some queries about whether the Enhanced Service specification for general practice, published on our website [here](#), is the final version or whether practices should wait for a further version. To confirm that the published version is the final version; from time to time we may need to update it, as we've done in previous phases of the programme. However, assurance should take place on the basis of the ES that is published.

NEW: Clinical Safety, Operational and Equipment Information

1. Updates to post-thaw expiry labels applied to thawed vaccine prior to delivery to sites

Following feedback from sites we have worked with our Specialist Pharmaceutical Logistics (SPLs) partners to make minor updates to improve the clarity and consistency of the post-thaw expiry labels that are applied to vaccine cartons that have been thawed prior to delivery to sites. These updates have been made across all the COVID-19 vaccines that require thawing and across all currently available pack sizes.

The updates to the post-thaw expiry labels include:

- Expiry time has been removed from labels o The post thaw expiry date for unpunctured vials stored at 2°C to 8°C does not need to be tracked to the hour, it can be rounded up to the end of that day.
- Post thaw expiry date is shown as follows across all vaccine types: o Post-thaw expiry: DD/MM/YYYY
- This sentence has been added to the bottom of each label to clearly identify that the product has been thawed and labelled by an SPL: *Thawed and thaw label applied by [an NHS logistics provider]*

These new labels will be in place across all vaccine deliveries from Thursday 18 August 2022.

2. New clinical safety dashboard launches this week

A new clinical safety dashboard is published for the first time this week. It summarises 14 different metrics and allows regions, systems and sites to identify every event where clinical practice appears to deviate from agreed protocols – for example vaccine doses

being given too early, the wrong dose, to someone of the wrong age or where records have been recorded after the day of vaccination.

The dashboard enables site managers to identify individual events, cross check these against the clinical record in their Point of Care system and examine whether the event was intended. If so, site teams can check whether fully informed consent was obtained and recorded appropriately.

The dashboard will be updated on a weekly basis and is available [here](#) alongside an interim SOP to guide its use. We encourage each site to use the dashboard as a Quality Assurance tool to ensure clinical practice is as good as possible and tightened up if needed.

Access to the dashboard is limited to the following individuals, by entering their registered email address when they login to Futures:

- COVID-19 VDP Senior Leadership Team including Regional Directors of Commissioning.
- RVOC and SVOC leads.
- Regional Risk/Quality and CARS leads who attend the national Clinical Risk & Safety Group (CRSG).
- Site Managers (please).

Access for the first three groups is already in place. Vaccination Site Managers should send an email to their SVOC / RVOC requesting access – RVOC will review all requests and enable access via NVOC Comms accordingly. If anyone else needs access, please email england.covidvaccs@nhs.net explaining the need.

The dashboard is Excel-based and straightforward to use. A user guide is included as a separate tab. We will be organising a webinar in the near future to demonstrate how it can aid best practice and to get feedback from users. In addition, CRSG will review its use and impact on a regular basis so please feed any comments back via your Regional Risk/Quality lead.

3. Revision of SPS SOPs and associated guidance for the autumn programme

Specialist Pharmacy Service (SPS) produced a set of detailed template Standard Operational Procedures (SOPs) and Institutional Readiness documents for each of the vaccines when they were first made available under emergency provision (“Regulation 174”). These were updated and expanded over the following months to consider new vaccines and changes to vaccine information.

As the vaccines now have Conditional Marketing Authorisation, SPS have revised these resources, consolidating the original SOPs into resources common to all vaccines when possible, while retaining the vaccine-specific preparation SOPs. In addition, the Institutional Readiness documents and some of the explanatory text within the SOPs have been replaced with a series of web articles to enable users to understand the characteristics of each vaccine. The new pages and SOPs will be available [here](#) later this week (week commencing 15 August).

The purpose is to simplify the number of SOPs that sites need to review and maintain. Sites can continue to use their existing localized SOPs for the vaccines that they already have in use and plan to revise them as part of their regular review process.

4. Combined needles and syringes for the COVID19 vaccine administration

If a site experiences an issue with any combined needles and syringes associated with the COVID19 vaccine programme they should be reported as follows;

- Notify COVID19PHEsupplies@phe.gov.uk so an investigation can be opened with manufacturer
- Raise a Yellow card to MHRA
- If appropriate notify NVOC via the SVOC/RVOC route.

5. Key Learning re cold chain incidents

With the vaccination programme operating at such a high level all settings should remain familiar with best practise and the processes for maintaining the cold chain.

Key points to consider include:

- ensure daily monitoring occurs on all days vaccine is held in the fridge
- check that your data logger has an SD card, or equivalent functionality, and be prepared to download data when you report a cold chain incident
- ensure named individuals are identified each day to be responsible for stock monitoring and cold chain management
- keep clear records and have visible aide memoires as needed to ensure expiry times are not exceeded.

If you experience a cold chain or any other clinical incident report it promptly to ICARS england.swicars@nhs.net and they will support your investigation and any mutual aid required for vaccine supply.

6. Fridge faults affecting vaccine supply for all models of delivery

Where a fridge fault affects vaccine supply site should follow these steps.

- Report to ICARS team england.swicars@nhs.net copying in england.swcovid19-voc1@nhs.net
- Fridges can no longer be ordered via the programme – so if a new one is needed the site will have to obtain one using their usual routes and the cost will be for the site.
- Report via the Foundry system/one care with batch numbers.

NEW: Workforce Support and Training Resources

1. Monkeypox workforce and training guidance

The Monkeypox training and workforce guidance is currently being updated to reflect recent UKHSA guidance. The pack will be published onto FutureNHS following sign off and published in due course.

2. NEW: Polio workforce and training guidance

The NHS has been asked to implement immunisation activity for individuals who are at risk of exposure to Polio with the vaccination principally being delivered through GP, community pharmacies and vaccination centres. The [guidance](#) sets out the workforce and training considerations for staff administering the vaccine as well as deployment of workforce to support the delivery of this vaccination.

This can be used as a practical guide that:

- outlines the workforce considerations for the IPV vaccine under a Patient Group Direction (PGD) and Patient Specific Direction (PSD)
- details the workforce available to support the vaccination programme
- provides training guidance for registered and unregistered healthcare professionals to support this vaccination.

3. UPDATE: Workforce and Training Considerations

The revised Workforce Considerations pack for adult vaccination during the Autumn campaign will be issued on or before the 30th of August. The updated pack will include COVID-19, flu and co-administration clinical red lines, design principles, legal mechanisms, revised National Protocol POD model and training requirements including the bivalent vaccine e-learning module.

4. Surge Toolkit

This [toolkit](#) is designed to support regional workforce leads and lead employers with workforce planning in the lead up to and during a surge, and a period of unplanned activity increase to meet demand.

It provides overall guidance and practical actions to be taken, both in preparation for and in response to surge requirements including:

- guidance on use of the lead employer model
- considerations for surge planning related to workforce supply chain pools to increase capacity at short notice
- guidance on training requirements to ensure a competent workforce
- information on accessing additional paid and volunteer staff, as required
- guidance on winding down surge activities and approaches to learning lessons.

5. NHSVR (RVS) Volunteer Stewards - updated guidance on utilisation

Following an increase in reports of the incorrect use of NHSVR (RVS) Volunteer Stewards, we have updated and are re-issuing guidance on their vaccination programme utilisation, which can be found on [FutureNHS](#). Utilisation of Volunteer Stewards outside of this guidance endangers patients and carries significant indemnity and programme risks. Lead Employers are requested to share this guidance widely with all vaccination sites (including community pharmacies and primary care) that utilise volunteers.

6. Vaccine service desk hours of change

From Monday, 5th September the service hours of the Vaccination Service Desk will be changing from 6am – 10pm to 7am - 7pm, 7 days a week. Users and front-line staff can continue to email any queries and issues to the Vaccination Service Desk at any time.

We recommend to use the templates provided on the FutureNHS platform that list questions/topics in the email to vaccineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk. Using the template provides information that will allow the desk to provide the correct response and engage the correct support team quicker, if required.

7. REMINDER: FutureNHS Page for raising vaccination Tech & Data issues

The Vaccination Service Desk have designed a page on FutureNHS to support front-line staff and members, reporting tech and data issues for:

- Pinnacle
- Vaccination records
- National Immunisation Vaccination System (NIVS)
- Foundry
- National Booking System or Q-Flow
- MYS
- Other tech and data queries. Please encourage staff to visit this page and select the nature of their query to view the information required by the Vaccination Service Desk team using vaccineservicedesk@england.nhs.uk.

8. Improving the COVID check-in experience for staff

Are you an **arrival steward** who has:

- used the check-in app?
- stopped using the check-in app?

- considered switching from other methods you use to check-in citizens?

The NHS Vaccines Programme would appreciate the opportunity to have an informal conversation with you (and others in your team) about your experience and test possible improvements.

What's involved?

We will arrange a convenient time to talk with you on Microsoft Teams. We appreciate that you are in a very busy period. You can choose to talk to us for up to 15 minutes or 45 minutes if you have availability during September.

What will we talk about?

Firstly, we'd like to know about how you currently check-in citizens. Then we'll show you an example of how the app could be improved. We'd like you to give us as much constructive criticism as you can about the possible changes. We want to ensure that any changes are likely to improve your experience. You don't need to be good with computers to participate.

What will you do with my information?

With your consent, we will anonymise any data you provide. We will not share your personal details with other organisations. We will reconfirm that we can use your data at the end of our conversation. To ensure that we capture your experience we will ask permission to record our conversation. There will be up to two other researchers in the background, to note problems with the example app. We won't use your data for any other purpose.

Interested in taking part?

Thank you for considering our invite. Please get in touch with Liz and Gemma at liz.glidewell1@nhs.net and gemma.holland13@nhs.net to arrange a time to talk.

9. Autumn 2022 Rollout Security Webinar – notes from the meeting

The Autumn 2022 Rollout Security webinar was held on 16 August 2022 and was attended by 74 colleagues. We have uploaded the notes and useful information from this meeting to [Webinar folder](#) on the [Security Hub](#) on the [Covid-19 Vaccination Programme workspace](#).

10. National Workforce Support Offer – more details:

[National Workforce Support Offer Toolkit](#) provides more detail about the National Workforce Support Offer and is a practical guide for local vaccination service leads.

Contact your [Lead Employer](#) to access the National Offer and additional staff and vaccinators, as well as support with your workforce needs.

For more details, please see our Futures NHS pages [LVS Workforce](#) and [case studies/FAQs](#) and recently guidance for [PCN groupings](#) and [community pharmacy](#)

Contact the national workforce team direct via PCNCP.workforceescalation@nhs.net
[COVID-19 Vaccination Improvement Hub](#)

UPDATES/REMINDER: Learning Resources

1. Case studies

The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Improvement Hub publishes case studies to share learning and improvement work across the programme. A summary of all case studies available on the [Improvement Hub](#).

2. Webinars

Vaccination programme shared learning community webinar

Further information is available on [FutureNHS](#), along with all previous learning community webinars and supporting resources on the [Improvement Hub](#).

3. Useful Links

Ops Notes:

You can find all the latest operational notes on FutureNHS:

[LVS Operational Notes](#)

[VC Operational Notes](#)

Communications Resources:

You can find [communications resources](#) on FutureNHS including our latest toolkits on, [seasonal boosters](#), [5-15 year olds](#), [people with a weakened immune system](#) and [pregnant women](#).

Clinical Updates:

See the latest [clinical updates](#)

Other Resources:

[Coronavirus vaccinations](#): NHS Digital helps you access up-to-date information, training and onboarding guides related to the tech and data solutions that are supporting the COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination programmes.

[COVID-19 Vaccination Programme workspace](#) provides members with access to key documents, resources, webinar recordings, case studies and past copies of the LVS Updates. There is also a discussion forum for members. If you are not already a member, please email: P_C_N-manager@future.nhs.uk

[COVID-19 Vaccine Equalities Connect and Exchange Hub](#) is a community of practice on the FutureNHS platform, where NHS, local authority, public and voluntary sector staff share ideas, evidence, resources, case studies and blueprints to increase vaccine uptake in all communities.

Members also have access to peer-to-peer support and a programme of regular webinars and live discussion forums. To join, please [register for an account](#) and once registered you can [join the Hub](#).

[Supply and Delivery Hub](#) helps you access key information in a timely way and helps support you to deliver your local vaccination service. Here you will find the latest delivery information (vaccine and vaccine consumables as well as non-vaccine consumables, equipment, and PPE), alongside the latest supply chain and customer service FAQs and other helpful information.