

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Update for Agency Care Staff: 20 March 2021

All eligible agency care staff encouraged to book their COVID-19 vaccination appointment now

First dose vaccinations for agency health and care staff

Thank you to all our agency staff for your dedication and commitment to looking after our most vulnerable people through some very difficult months.

If you have not already had your COVID-19 vaccine, let us protect you by booking an appointment now. All eligible health and care workers, including agency staff, can [book their vaccine appointment online](#), or by telephoning 119.

Am I eligible?

Full details of eligible workers are set out in the [Government's 'Green Book' \(see page 11\)](#). If you are unsure if you are eligible for vaccination, please contact your employer or email us at Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net

Eligible staff include agency or directly-employed staff working in care homes, nursing homes, supported housing, extra care and supporting living workers, including on site ancillary staff who may have social contact with patients but are not directly involved in patient care. This group includes receptionists, ward clerks, porters and cleaners. It also includes personal assistants/live in carers.

Why should agency staff in care services get the COVID-19 vaccine?

If you're a frontline worker in social care, you are more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 at work. Those working in care are at much higher risk of repeated exposure to the infection. Catching COVID-19 can be serious and may lead to long term complications.

As someone who may be working on short-term contracts, across multiple sites and with vulnerable people, by having the vaccine you will also be protecting those you care for, as well as yourself.

If staff have previously declined the vaccination, they can still access the vaccination now by [booking an appointment online](#), or by telephoning 119.

Unsure or have questions about the vaccine?

- Check out the [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff](#), available in a variety of languages, which has all the information about why you should get vaccinated, side effects and more.
- Use our [online fact checker](#) to get the latest information about the vaccine or for further information take a look at our [frequently asked questions](#). These may also help you to manage and support queries from clients and families, and proactively talk to them about the vaccine.
- If you have a question about the Sussex COVID-19 vaccination programme, which is not answered on our website, please contact us Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net

Reassurance messages

A number of organisations and leaders have spoken out in support of the vaccination. Some examples are:

- The [British Islamic Medical Association have produced a position statement on both the Pfizer and the Astra-Zeneca vaccines](#) which includes a statement on animal products and recommends the vaccine for Muslim communities. They also have a statement about [vaccination while fasting during Ramadan](#).
- The [British Islamic Medical Association have also produced a 'Myth buster'](#) with infographics.
- The [Muslim Council of Great Britain \(MCB\) website holds Coronavirus information](#) including; Advice for Mosques and Madrasas, statements of support for the COVID-19 vaccinations, and a 'myth buster' with infographics.
- [The Catholic Church offers reassurance messages](#) that Catholics may "in good conscience receive any of these vaccines for the good of others and themselves".

Accessible information on Coronavirus and the vaccine

A series of COVID-19 resources in a variety of languages and accessible formats are updated regularly on the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#).

Health and care staff second doses

While the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine gives a good immunity to the virus, two doses are needed to have the best chance of full protection. Second doses are being scheduled up to twelve weeks after the first. It is really important that people get both doses to get the greatest benefit from the vaccine.

Most health and care workers have already booked their second dose, usually at the same time they booked or attended their first dose. Second doses must be delivered by the same vaccination service that delivered the first dose.

If you've had your first dose but do not have an appointment for your second dose, please see below for what you should do.

I had my first dose at a hospital site...

If you had your first dose at one of the hospitals in Sussex and don't yet have a second dose booked, then you should contact that hospital's vaccination service on the details below:

- Brighton, Royal Sussex County Hospital – bsuh.covid.vaccination@nhs.net
- Chichester, St Richards Hospital – wshnt.covidvaccineinfo@nhs.net
- Eastbourne District General Hospital – esht.covid-vaccination@nhs.net
- East Grinstead, Queen Victoria Hospital – qvh.covidvaccinationclinic@nhs.net
- Hastings, Conquest Hospital – esht.covid-vaccination@nhs.net
- Haywards Heath, Princess Royal Hospital- bsuh.covid.vaccination@nhs.net
- Hove, Mill View Hospital – covidvaccine@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk
- Worthing Hospital – wshnt.covidvaccineinfo@nhs.net

I had my first dose in a care home where I work...

If you work in a care home and had your first dose at your place of work, then you should be able to receive your second dose when the home is visited for residents' second doses. The NHS will contact homes to provide more details in due course, including arrangements for staff who are unable to be present for their second dose.

I had my first dose at a GP-led local vaccination service...

GP-led local vaccination services will be contacting people to book second doses if they have not done so already. If ten weeks has passed since you received your first dose and you do not have an appointment for your second dose, please contact the local vaccination service that offered you the first dose.

I booked my first dose through the national NHS website or by calling 119...

If you used the national website or telephone line, you would have booked both doses at the same time. Log in or call up to see the details of your second dose and change it if necessary.

I can't remember where or when I had my first dose. How can I check?

Your GP holds your up to date vaccination record and should be able to provide this information.

Keeping you up to date

As we continue to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine across Sussex, we are committed to making sure you are kept up to date. If you have missed any of our regular Independent Care Sector updates on the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, you can [read them here](#).

Please do share this update with your teams, especially regarding information about how they access their vaccination.