

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Sussex Independent Care Sector briefing: 28 September 2021

Roll out of the Sussex Independent Care Sector COVID-19 booster vaccination programme across Sussex

As we roll out the COVID-19 booster vaccine programme across Sussex, we are committed to making sure you are kept up to date. We will be sharing regular updates on the delivery of the COVID-19 booster (and seasonal flu) vaccination programme. All previous updates can be read on [our website](#).

Individuals who received vaccination in Phase 1 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme (priority groups 1 to 9) will be offered a third dose COVID-19 booster vaccine. This includes:

- those living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults aged 50 years or over
- frontline health and social care workers
- all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (as set out in the [green book](#)), and adult carers
- adult household contacts (aged 16 or over) of immunosuppressed individuals

Booster vaccinations will ensure the protection vaccines provide for those most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 will be maintained over the winter months.

Frontline health and care staff booster vaccinations – book now, do not wait for an invite

Frontline health and care staff can book their booster vaccination appointment [online](#) or by ringing 119 now. Please do not worry that the online information says wait to be invited. You should regard this communication as your invite. You do not need to be contacted individually by the NHS.

Who is eligible?

The booster is available to people who have now reached 180 days from the date of their second vaccination and within specific groups.

The booster is only available to those staff who are in a frontline role and are in direct contact with those who need social care support. This means you currently work in a care home for older or working age adults or you provide face-to-face care or support to individuals at higher risk from COVID-19 (adults or children who are [clinically extremely vulnerable](#) or those over the age of 16 who are clinically vulnerable to COVID-19). This is in accordance with the government's '[Green Book](#)'.

For example:

- you are a registered professional in social care (such as a social worker, therapist or nurse);
- you work in a clinical role (such as a doctor, nurse, allied health professional or health care support worker);
- you are employed to provide personal care or work in any support roles (cook, housekeeping, cleaning, maintenance) including as a volunteer, in a residential care home;
- you have contact with patients in a non-clinical role (such as a receptionist or porter);
- you work providing care for people in their homes or in community services such as home care, supported living, shared lives, extra care and day care services, or you are employed as a personal assistant.

See table one on page five of this briefing for more on eligibility.

Please speak to your employer, if you're not sure.

For some staff, they may still be eligible for the booster because of other government criteria that they may individually meet, such as those who are clinical vulnerable or aged over 50 years old.

Health and Social Care Workers aged 16 - 17 ³/₄ years

As outlined in the [Green Book](#) and [protocol for the administration of Pfizer vaccine](#) Health and Social Care Workers aged 16 -17 should receive two doses as part of the main roll out. Then Health and Social Care Workers aged 16 and over who have direct contact with patients, clients or service users are eligible to receive a third dose booster vaccination.

What evidence do I need to give to demonstrate my eligibility?

As part of the booking process, you will need to self-declare you are a frontline health or social care worker. You may need to explain the role/work that you do and give the name of your employer.

When booking, you will be told what evidence you will need to provide at the vaccination site as proof of employment. This can be one of the following:

- An ID badge with your photo.
- A recent letter (last three months) from your line-manager.
- A recent payslip (last three months) that shows your employment.

Please note, you will only be vaccinated if official proof is presented at the vaccination site. Proof of evidence will also be required if you access your booster through a local booking service or walk-in clinic.

Timing of your booster

Please remember you can only get your booster 180 days (about six months) after your second vaccination. So please check when that was and make sure you book after this period. You will not be able to use the national online booking system until you are at or beyond 180 days after your second vaccination.

We recommend that if you are eligible, to please go ahead and get your COVID-19 booster vaccination. We also urge everyone eligible to take up the jab if they haven't already to protect those they care for, themselves and those they work alongside.

Delivery of the vaccine booster to care residents in Sussex

National guidance for roll out of the vaccine booster is being followed. All eligible residents will receive their booster from 180 days after their second dose, and before 1 November 2021.

Vaccine boosters will be delivered through a GP-led vaccination service, managed by the local Primary Care Networks. These teams will cover all care providers in Sussex.

We will be working in partnership with care providers to organise and schedule the vaccinations. A detailed plan for each local area is currently being worked up and this will confirm the timelines, requirements and scope any support likely to be required.

The NHS will be in touch with care homes directly to arrange and support the process of vaccinations and the appropriate information sharing and consents needed, including any additional considerations such as mental capacity and safeguarding.

Residents living in Extra Care/supported living/sheltered accommodation will be invited to receive their vaccination during attendance at a local GP-led vaccination service. For those who are registered with their GP as housebound, they will receive a visit within their own home.

We will shortly be writing out to you with more detail about the schedule of vaccinations and thank you for your patience at this time.

Consent

A new Public Health England care home consent form, updated to reflect the autumn booster programme will be used by the PCN teams for recording consent during care home visits for the autumn booster.

It is important to note that written consent is not necessarily needed and verbal consent can be documented.

Which vaccine will be used?

People will be offered either a full 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 previously had.

Where neither can be offered, for example for those who have an allergy to either vaccine, the JCVI advise that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine can be used for those who received this vaccine for their first and second doses. The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is safe, effective and has already saved thousands of lives in the UK and around the world.

Co-administration of the flu vaccine

The medicines regulator MHRA has determined that co-administration of the COVID-19 vaccine booster and the seasonal flu vaccination is safe and can go ahead. We are awaiting formal guidance regarding giving both to individuals at the same time. We will update you as soon as possible when this is confirmed.

In some places, where flu vaccine stock has already been received by local GP services, delivery of this single vaccine has already begun to be rolled out – giving protection to vulnerable people as soon as possible. Where this is the case and the flu vaccine has already been given, residents will receive their COVID-19 booster vaccine on a separate occasion/visit from the team.

New legislation for staff who visit and carry out work in CQC-registered care homes

The Government has announced [new legislation](#) that requires all care home workers and anyone entering a care home to provide evidence via the [NHS COVID Pass service](#) of receiving both doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine (unless they are exempt under the regulations), from 11 November 2021.

Health and care organisations across Sussex are working closely together to support all staff either working in or visiting CQC-registered care homes in a professional capacity, to receive their vaccination as soon as possible.

If you have not already had your vaccine, let us protect you from COVID-19 by booking an appointment now. Vaccinations can be booked via the [NHS Website](#) or accessed via one of the many [walk in clinics](#) across Sussex, with lots of availability each day across our sites.

Please don't forget it's important we do all we can to stay safe and follow government guidance around 'hands, face, space and fresh air'.

Thank you

Thank you again for your continuing dedication and support for our population, each other, and the Sussex system. We have so much to be proud of in the way we all, as a health and care system, have responded to the pandemic and the roll out of the vaccination programme throughout 2020 and 2021.

TABLE 1 - The following community based social care workers are included as eligible:

Occupational Group	Example of Roles in Scope
Staff working in care homes for older and younger adults	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All roles in these settings <p>Staff in these settings are eligible for boosters irrespective of whether they provide face to face care or not following statutory changes (vaccination as a condition for deployment).</p>
Those working for social care providers undertaking face to face personal care - These roles involve directly working with people who need care and support	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Care worker • Personal Assistant • Rehabilitation, reablement, enablement worker • Shared lives carer • Supported living carer
Frontline supervisors / team leaders within social care organisations who have direct contact with clients	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team leader or supervisor • Specialist coordinator, such as Dementia or end of life care coordinator
Regulated professionals working for the Local Authority or other social care provider – these roles require the worker to hold relevant qualifications and to be registered with a regulated body to practice.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Social worker • Approved Mental Health Professionals (AMHP) • Occupational Therapist • Nurse including nursing associate • Counsellor
Those working for the Local Authority or other social care organisation providing support services, but not personal care, and who have direct contact with clients / people who need support.	<p>Those in ancillary roles within non-residential settings such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cook or Kitchen Assistant • Housekeeping or domestic worker • Driver • Maintenance / Adaptations Handyman <p>Those in advisory roles such as:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Housing support • Social care prescriber/Care Navigator

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| | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welfare / Advocacy Rights Advisor• Employment Advisor |
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The following, however, are currently not eligible

- Social care workers working with children who are not at high risk from COVID-19, for example in early years education as a childminder or nursery nurse or with vulnerable children (SEND or Looked After Children) who are not clinically vulnerable to COVID-19.
- Administrative staff who do not have any direct contact with clients and who work in settings other than care homes.
- People who are unpaid carers and those providing home help, such as shopping or cleaning.