



Department
of Health &
Social Care



UK Health
Security
Agency

CARE

Adult Social Care Delivery Directorate
39 Victoria Street
Westminster
London
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To:

Agencies providing placements for social care staff
Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Adult Social Care Services
Provider representative bodies

11 February 2022

Dear Colleagues,

The importance of booster vaccinations for agency staff in Adult Social Care

This winter, the government has increased efforts to drive COVID-19 booster uptake, and we've seen a positive increase across the board in the sector. We're grateful to everyone who continues to work to both encourage and receive their vaccinations, and who is playing their part to protect those most vulnerable to coronavirus.

Despite an increase in take-up, we have further to go to encourage our agency colleagues. Less than one in five of all agency staff recorded on Capacity Tracker have received their booster. While we are aware that not every individual will be eligible for a booster due to a medical exemption, or it being too soon since their second dose, the uptake rates for boosters among agency staff remain concerning.

UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) data illustrates that around 6 months after receiving a second dose of any COVID-19 vaccine, protection against death from Omicron was approximately 60% in those aged 50 and over. However, this increases to around 95% protection 2 weeks after receiving a booster vaccine dose.

Vaccination remains the best line of defence against COVID-19. Vaccines have helped build a wall of defence against COVID-19 and have saved countless lives. They have weakened the link between infection, hospitalisation, and deaths, especially for those living or working in care homes.

It is therefore essential that every agency staff member working in Social Care receives their COVID-19 booster as soon as eligible to protect themselves and improve protection against coronavirus for those being cared for.



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We ask also that when updating vaccination rates in Capacity Tracker within settings, you ensure the data for agency staff is updated too. Agency workers play a vital role across the system and having robust data on their vaccination status will help us to ensure they are supported.

How agency staff can get their booster vaccinations

Please continue to encourage all agency staff to access a booster vaccination as soon as they are eligible – at least three months since their second dose – and to take up the offer of a booster when the care home they are working in is being visited by a vaccination team. Please also encourage agency staff who have not received their first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine to take up the offer as soon as possible.

Staff can individually book their COVID-19 booster vaccination, as well as doses one and two, through the National Booking Service¹ or by calling 119 free of charge. Boosters can be booked two months after the second dose to secure an appointment for as soon as they become eligible, so long as they are registered with a GP in England.

Agency workers can also attend any walk-in vaccination site² to receive COVID-19 vaccines, and can access priority queuing by presenting [this letter](#)³ and proof of employment.

Kind regards,

Sir David Pearson

Chair Social Care
Task Force, DHSC

David Pearson

**Deborah Sturdy
OBE**

Chief Nurse for Adult
Social Care, DHSC

Deborah Sturdy

Dr Eamonn O'Moore

SRO for COVID-19
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Dr Eamonn O'Moore

¹ <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

² <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/>

³ www.skillsforcare.org/priority-vaccination-letter