



04 May 2023

Dear colleagues,

This bulletin provides need-to-know information from the national COVID-19 vaccination deployment team, supporting Vaccination Centres (VC), Local Vaccination Services (LVS) and Hospital Hubs across the country to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

If you have any queries, please contact your SVOC who can escalate via the SVOC/RVOC escalation route.

To access links in this bulletin please join the [Covid-19 Vaccination FutureNHS Workspace](#). Previous editions of the bulletin are [here](#).

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Cross-programme updates

[NEW: Vaccinations in pregnancy](#)

Vaccinations in pregnancy

Teams are asked to continue to encourage pregnant women to come forward for the whooping cough (pertussis) and COVID-19 vaccinations.

COVID-19

Pregnant women who have not yet had at least two COVID-19 vaccinations are strongly encouraged to come forward at any point during pregnancy. It is harder to fight off infections when you're pregnant, which means they are at higher risk of becoming very ill with COVID-19.

If your patient is pregnant and has had one COVID-19 vaccination, or none at all, they can still get the vaccine until 30 June. After 30 June, the offer will become more targeted to those at higher risk from severe COVID-19, following advice from experts. The vaccine will usually only be offered seasonally (for example, during the autumn-winter period).

Pregnant women can book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment by downloading the NHS App, online at www.nhs.uk/COVIDvaccination or by calling 119. They can also speak to their midwife or GP team about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Whooping cough (pertussis)

Pregnant women who have not yet had their whooping cough (pertussis) vaccine are strongly encouraged to come forward for the best protection for their baby. Whooping cough can be very serious for young babies, and infants who are too young to start their vaccinations are at greatest risk. They are often very unwell, and most will be admitted to hospital because of their illness.

Pregnant women can help protect their baby by getting vaccinated – ideally from 16 weeks up to 32 weeks pregnant. If for any reason they miss having the vaccine, they can still have it up until the end of pregnancy. Whooping cough vaccination appointments can be booked through the midwifery or GP team. For further information please see link [Whooping cough vaccination in pregnancy - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](http://www.nhs.uk)

[NEW: FutureNHS workspace for all Vaccination and Screening providers](#)

On 2 May 2023, NHS England launched the new [Vaccination and Screening FutureNHS workspace](#). The workspace houses content created by NHS England to support vaccination and screening providers, including datasets, guidance, communications materials, and shared learning.

This workspace combines the content from the previous workspaces linked below, which will be closed.

[NHS Public Health Commissioning & Operations](#)
[Public Health Analysis](#)

Note: the [Covid](#) and [Mpox](#) workspaces will remain open and separate.

All vaccination and screening providers with an nhs.net or other recognised healthcare / government email address, can join the workspace by visiting the workspace and selecting “Join”. More access guidance can be viewed [here](#).

More content will be uploaded in the coming weeks and you can sign up to receive a weekly summary of all uploads to the workspace [here](#).

We will be running structured feedback in the coming weeks to hear your experience of the workspace and ideas for improvement. In the meantime, if you have comments, questions, or feedback, please provide this [here](#).

[NEW: Spring Campaign 2023 HEE e-lfh - COVID-19 Vaccines Training Updates post 28 April 2023](#)

Please note the following recent e-learning updates that can be accessed via the e-lfh hub:

Moderna COVID-19 vaccines Spikevax bivalent 25/25

Moderna COVID-19 vaccines Spikevax bivalent 25/25 COVID-19 Vaccine session and assessment were updated and made live on the e-lfh hub [here](#) on 28 April 2023.

Updates include:

- Spring 2023 booster campaign and ‘Evergreen’ primary offer.

- Latest changes to the Green Book chapter 14a.

- Programme history largely summarised, except where required to provide context.

- Removal of Spikevax Original vaccine information except where required to provide context.

- Information on the two Spikevax Original/bivalent 25/25 vaccines now available and their use, emphasising their similarities and limited differences.

- Current weblinks and nomenclature.

Update to Core Knowledge for COVID-19 Vaccinators

New vaccinators are required to undertake the Core e-learning session. This was updated on 25 April 2023. The assessment questions were last updated 11 April 2023.

Individuals who undertook the Core e-learning session between the most recent Green Book update (9 March 2023) and the Core training session update (25 April 2023) must have successfully completed the assessment that was published 11 April 2023, in order to be able to record completion of the Core e-learning. The link can be found [here](#).

Updates include:

- An explanation of the ‘living with COVID-19’ approach to vaccination.

Spring 2023 booster programme and the criteria for the Spring 2023 'Evergreen' primary offer.

Latest changes to the Green Book chapter 14a including recommended intervals, co-administration.

Currently supplied vaccines, including bivalent mRNA vaccines and the introduction of Sanofi VidPrevtyn Beta for older adults, and of Pfizer BioNTech Comirnaty 3 (THREE) concentrate for 6 months to 4-year-old children at clinical risk.

Current weblinks and nomenclature.

(Note: the core session assessment questions, last updated 11 April 2023, have again been reviewed; no further changes have been made).

11 April 2023. Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine Comirnaty 10 Concentrate

The Pfizer-BioNTech Comirnaty 10 Concentrate (10 micrograms/dose) COVID-19 Vaccine session and assessment were updated and made live [here](#) on the elfh hub 11 April 2023.

Updates include:

Spring 2023 campaign for 5- to 11-year-olds: boosters for immunosuppressed children and the criteria for the 'Evergreen' primary offer (household contacts of immunosuppressed no longer included).

Latest changes to the Green Book chapter 14a including recommended intervals, co-administration.

Explanation of 'Living with COVID-19' approach.

Clinical risk group details removed – signposted to Green Book.

Current weblinks and product information and nomenclature.

Further information detailing the latest updates can be found [here](#).

[NEW: Spring 2023 vaccine invites weekly summary](#)

The below notifications are due to arrive in the current period.

Cohort	Volume (national)	Date
Spring Boosters 1st Reminders [85+]	c. 0.53m	2-3, 5 & 11 May
Spring Boosters [168 days, completed 3+ doses, non-immunosuppressed:75+ immunosuppressed:16+]	c. 0.3m	4 & 10-12 May
Spring Boosters [168 days, completed 3+ doses, non-immunosuppressed:75+ immunosuppressed:5+]	c. 0.5m	4 & 10-12 May

Spring Booster Invites by Region (this week)

EE	114,331
LON	259,302
MID	184,230
NE	144,667
NW	115,872
SE	201,389
SW	109,443

Look ahead (may be subject to amendment):

Cohort	Volume (national)	Date
Spring Booster 1st Reminders [80+]	low	9, 10, 12 & 17 May
2 nd Dose Prompts 5-17 At risk including Severely Immunosuppressed	low	9 & 11 May
2 nd Dose Prompts 18+ and 5-17 Not at risk	low	9 & 11 May
Spring Boosters [91 days, completed 3+ doses, non-immunosuppressed:75+ immunosuppressed:5+ mop-up]	c.326k	11, 16-17 & 19 May
Spring Boosters [91 days, 2 doses, non-Immunosuppressed: 75+ Immunosuppressed: 5+ mop-up, latest dose before 11 May 2022]	c. 211k	12 & 18-19 & 22 May

[REMINDER: Patient and health care publications for the COVID-19 Spring booster 2023 programme – order your stock now!](#)

Please ask all providers to register on the [Health Publications website](#) with their NHS or health family email address. All vaccine providers can order 500-1000 of each item on the website. Once they are registered and have an account, they can also call 0300 123 1002 to place orders on the phone. (Individuals are treated as members of the public and restricted to 5 copies of everything, however providers can order unlimited stock).

All providers should order stock of all the following to deliver the programme to give to every patient in line with the Patient Group Directive (PGD) and with guidance on both consent and aftercare.

[What to expect leaflet - English version](#)

What to expect after your vaccination leaflet translations available to order in: [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese \(simplified\)](#), [Chinese \(traditional\)](#), [Cantonese](#), [Dari](#), [Estonian](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Italian](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Panjabi](#), [Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Turkish](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#) and [Yoruba](#)

Accessible formats of this leaflet are available to order or download in: [Audio](#), [Braille](#), [British Sign Language \(BSL\)](#) and [Large Print](#).

[Spring booster leaflet - English version](#)

Spring COVID-19 booster leaflet – translations available to order in [Albanian](#), [Arabic](#), [Bengali](#), [Bulgarian](#), [Chinese \(simplified\)](#), [Chinese \(traditional, Cantonese\)](#), [Dari](#), [Estonian](#), [Gujarati](#), [Hindi](#), [Italian](#), [Latvian](#), [Lithuanian](#), [Punjabi](#), [Pashto](#), [Polish](#), [Russian](#), [Somali](#), [Spanish](#), [Tigrinya](#), [Turkish](#), [Ukrainian](#), [Urdu](#) and [Yoruba](#).

Alternative and accessible formats of this leaflet are available to order or download as: [audio](#), [Braille](#), [British Sign Language \(BSL\)](#) and [large print](#).

[Record card](#)

[Sticker](#)

For vaccinators – paper copies available:

[“Which Vaccine?” poster Spring 2023](#)

[Sanofi/GSK VidPrevtyl Beta mixing instructions poster](#)

[Individual vaccine product information posters](#) – download only

Further information – download only:

[Use of human and animal products in vaccines](#)

[Green Book chapter 14a](#)

Clinical updates

[Revised Green Book Chapter 14a](#)

The [Green Book Chapter 14a](#) was recently revised. Some of key changes are summarised below:

Confirmation that the advice to suspend the routine 15 minute observation period applies to all currently available COVID-19 vaccines in all age groups

Inclusion of the recent [JCVI advice](#) to vaccinate those children aged 6 months to 4 years in a clinical risk group (as included in Table 4) – further information regarding vaccination for this cohort will be shared by the programme

The inclusion of VidPrevtyl Beta as an option for primary dose vaccination for those aged 65 years and over if there would otherwise be a delay in vaccination – as detailed in the separate Bulletin item entitled ‘VidPrevtyl Beta: legal mechanisms for administration’, this is not covered by the PGD or National Protocol therefore a prescriber model will be required for vaccination.

Clinical teams are advised to read and familiarise themselves with all the amendments.

Revised Current Cohort Eligibility Tool

The [Current Cohort Eligibility Tool](#) has been refreshed to include Spikevax Original/Omicron BA.4-5, which will be supplied to designated sites to support the Spring Campaign.

Vaccine handling guidance and template Standard Operating Procedures for Spikevax BA.4-5

[Specialist Pharmacy Service guidance and template SOPs](#) are being updated this week in preparation for the deployment of Spikevax Original/Omicron BA.4-5. Clinical teams who will be using this vaccine are advised read, understand, and adopt these documents.

VidPrevtyl Beta: legal mechanisms for administration

The [National protocol for COVID-19 vaccine \(adults\)](#) and [Patient Group Direction: COVID-19 vaccine \(adults\)](#) can be used for booster vaccinations for individuals “due to turn 75 years of age on or before the end of the scheduled seasonal vaccination campaign”, as detailed in the Criteria for Inclusion. This means that those individuals who will turn 75 by 30 June can be vaccinated for a booster dose using these legal mechanisms for administration at any point during the campaign.

These legal mechanisms for administration do not cover vaccination with VidPrevtyl Beta for primary doses. The revised [Green Book Chapter 14a](#) does support use of this vaccine for primary doses for those aged 65 years and above “if there would otherwise be a delay in vaccination” or where mRNA vaccines are not considered clinically suitable. In such circumstances, a Patient Specific Direction (PSD) is required to enable vaccination.

Latest Patient Group Directions and National Protocols

As described in the Bulletin dated [30 March](#), a new style of [PGDs and National Protocols](#) were developed for the Spring 2023 Campaign, whereby instead of having separate documents for each vaccine type, the latest documents group these together based on age cohorts: one for 5–17-year-olds and one for adults.

These latest PGDs and National Protocols that are currently in use in the programme supersede previously published documents which were vaccine specific. Those previous documents have been withdrawn and should no longer be used at site level.

Confirmation of the Spikevax® Original/Bivalent BA. 4-5 administration needles and syringes

UKHSA have informed the programme that the combined needle and syringe (CNS) for the administration of Spikevax Original/Bivalent BA.4.5 be as follows:

The CNS used for the standard administration will be the GBUK Prosum 25G x 25mm, 1ml syringe. The CNS for administration for those individuals with morbid obesity will be the GBUK Prosum 23G x 38mm, 1ml syringe.

These are the same products that were used with the Spikevax Original and Spikevax Original/Bivalent BA.1 vaccines.

Both CNS come in packs of 100 and will be sent on a one for one basis alongside vaccine deliveries. As the minimum order quantity for Spikevax BA.4-5 is 50 doses there will be some oversupply on 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 a site has received.

Further national links and resources

Webinar: 'Preparing for a successful Spring 2023 COVID-19 campaign'

You can watch this recent webinar, which set out priorities and next steps for the forthcoming campaign, on FutureNHS [here](#).

Operational notes:

You can find all the latest operational notes on FutureNHS [here](#).

Communications resources:

You can find communications resources on FutureNHS including a [core script and FAQs](#) for the Spring campaign, [a long list of public FAQs](#), and a pack of [posters](#) to use in sites.

Clinical updates:

Previous editions of the clinical updates, before they were merged with this Bulletin, can be found [here](#).

Workforce and Training Bulletin:

Previous editions of this Bulletin, before it was merged with this Bulletin, can be found [here](#).

Workforce support:

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

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 FutureNHS page on [case studies/FAQs](#) and recently guidance for [PCN groupings](#) and [community pharmacy](#).

Other Resources:

[Coronavirus vaccinations](#): Our Digital team 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.

Equalities Community of Practice [here](#), with bespoke tools, resources and content for engagement and practice in supporting and learning from people and partners within underserved communities and equalities groups.

[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 alongside the latest supply chain and customer service FAQs and other helpful information.

All COVID-19 vaccination queries for national teams should be escalated via the SVOC/RVOC/NVOC process.