



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

**CARE**

Adult Social Care Delivery Directorate  
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**To:**

Adult social care providers  
Local Authority Chief Executives  
Directors of Adult Social Care Services  
Provider representative bodies

16 March 2023

**COVID-19 and flu vaccinations in adult social care in 2022/23**

Dear colleagues,

In February, the NHS COVID-19 Autumn/Winter booster campaign concluded with nearly 80% of care home residents receiving a COVID-19 booster dose this winter according to Capacity Tracker. Thank you again for promoting vaccination and helping us to deliver another successful booster campaign.

There is still some time to get a flu vaccination, the campaign for which runs until the end of March. I would be grateful for your support in continuing to encourage anyone eligible, and particularly social care workers, to come forward to take up their offer, to help protect themselves, their friends and family, and the people they care for.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to focus on the prevention of severe disease (hospitalisation and mortality) arising from COVID-19. Older persons, residents in care homes for older adults, and those who are immunosuppressed are at the highest risk of severe COVID-19. As such, the JCVI has now provided final [advice to government](#) advising that an extra booster dose in **Spring 2023** should be offered to:

- Adults aged 75 years and over
- Residents in a care home for older adults
- Individuals aged 5 years and over who are immunosuppressed (as defined in tables 3 or 4 of the Green Book)

The spring booster dose should be offered around 6 months after the last vaccine dose, although operational flexibility around the timing of the spring dose in relation to the last vaccine dose is considered appropriate.

Vaccination teams will shortly be making contact with care homes to arrange visits for residents. As with previous campaigns, we must maintain our efforts to encourage and promote the benefits of vaccinations to all who are eligible so that we can reduce the risk of infection.



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### **For those yet to receive their first dose**

From 30 June 2023, the ongoing primary course vaccination offer will move to a more targeted offer, available during vaccination campaigns only, for those at higher risk of severe COVID-19. We encourage those who have not received their primary course vaccination to come forward before this time to take up the offer before it closes.

Vaccinations remain the best defence we have against both viruses; they are safe and effective at reducing transmission and will help to ease some of the pressures being felt on adult social care and NHS services at this busy time.

You can find more information about both [COVID-19](#) and [flu](#) vaccination on the NHS website and download digital versions of campaign materials on the [Campaign Resource Centre \(CRC\)](#).

Thank you again for all your support.

Kind regards,

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Claire Armstrong

Director for Adult Social Care Delivery