

Covid-19

----- Guidance for practices



Date: 16.2.2021

Please be aware that this is a rapidly evolving situation.

Covid Vaccination Enhanced Service (ES)

- The email address England.london-covid19voc@nhs.net is a single point of contact for all Covid-19 vaccine queries and incidents in London. The email is monitored from 8am–8pm, seven days a week.
- Practices have been asked to provide an [Enhanced Service \(ES\)](#) for the delivery of the forthcoming Covid-19 vaccines.
- The full [ES and service specifications are available here](#), local variation of the contract by commissioners is not permitted.
- Our guidance for practices on the Covid Vaccination Programme 2020/21 Service Specifications can be [viewed here](#).
- Due to the nature of the vaccine and the scale of the project, although an ES (practice level contract), practices will need to work together on a PCN or locality basis to deliver this programme.
- To support the delivery of the individual and collective responsibilities of the collaborating practices as part of the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme (CVP), we have created guidance on [completing the Collaboration Agreement](#) and a template for the [Data Sharing Agreement](#).
- An ES is a voluntary contract, practices have the choice as to whether they sign up to this. The LMC will support practices whatever decision they make.

Key points of consideration for practices/PCNs planning on delivering the Covid vaccine ES

- Designated sites needed to be identified and CCGs informed by 17 November. This was not a formal commitment to delivering the ES.
- Limited information is required: in addition to contact details for key people and the address/code of the site, an estimation of the number of vaccinations expected to be delivered per week (minimum 975) is required.
- Practices/PCNs/localities need to begin planning the logistics of delivering this programme which should be ready to commence at the beginning of December. However, currently it is predicted that the first vaccine stock will become available at the end of December.
- Practices should be entering into discussion at PCN and CCG level to determine what they believe is the most appropriate delivery model for them and their patients under the ES. Federations may also be able to support delivery.
- Information on the first, Pfizer BioNTech, vaccine including the cold chain requirements is rapidly changing. Initially there was concern that every site will need cold storage facilities, but the current information is that normal clinical refrigerator temperatures (2-8°C) will be sufficient.
- We will alert you to any significant updates regarding which vaccine will be available, cold chain requirements and preparation requirements as they become available. The [Standard Operating Procedure](#) for local vaccination services in community settings was updated on 14 January.

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- To support this programme funding has been agreed:
 - £12.58 per vaccination course.
 - A national sum of £150m for general practice (see the '[Outstanding issues](#)' section for a breakdown by London STP area).
 - A national sum of £120k per CCG to support GP recruitment.

Logistical challenges

The issues that will affect practices' ability to rapidly deliver this programme include vaccine supplies and delivery schedules, designated site requirements, workforce availability and public acceptance of the vaccine.

- **Vaccine supplies:**

This is being arranged nationally, possibly with the involvement of the army to support distribution. At present practices are being asked to commit to providing at least 975 vaccinations per week but we do not know if supplies will be sufficient to achieve this or if practices will be able to have sufficient stock to vaccinate many more.
- **Designated site requirements:**

Revised [guidance from the MHRA](#) issued on 9 December states that patients need to be observed for 15 minutes post immunisation. This is in addition to earlier information that people should not drive for 15 minutes post vaccination. This will have a significant impact on the capacity of the designated sites. We have produced a [spreadsheet enabling practices to calculate capacity](#) on the basis on needing an observation area following injection which allows for the 15 minute wait requirement post administration of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine and two metres social distancing.

The British Society for Allergy and Clinical Immunology (BSACI) has advised that: individuals with a localised urticarial (itchy) skin reaction (without systemic symptoms) to the first dose of a Covid-19 vaccine should receive the second dose of vaccine with prolonged observation (30 minutes) in a setting with full resuscitation facilities (e.g. a hospital).

- **New site approval**

As the Covid Vaccination Programme develops, PCN groupings may wish to open additional sites or move sites as it becomes more apparent what the site requirements are to maximise delivery and the safe flow of patients through the vaccination process. Section 7 of the enhanced service deals with this and states that commissioners should have regard to PCN groupings preference and may invite PCN groupings to nominate additional sites as well as recognising that it may be necessary to amend a designated site.
- **Workforce requirements:**

The workforce we have available will significantly impact on the vaccination capacity. Surrey and Sussex LMCs have produced a [draft spreadsheet to help calculate the costs of delivering this service](#), they have noted that this is an optimistic calculation as it makes a number of assumptions, does not take into consideration all costings and is based on the limited information about the ES.

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Included in the [Londonwide LMCs spreadsheet](#) is a further tool we have produced – a calculator to determine your vaccine capacity based on the workforce available, which considers the financial envelop available to deliver this, alongside the cost of providing this service. Practices will need to consider the optimal model for the workforce they have available for delivery. We have discussed with some nursing colleagues how many vaccinators they feel could be supported safely. From these discussions a potential model is to form teams based on a GP/GPN supervising four HCPs who deliver the vaccine, with an administrator for every two vaccinators.

If people are required to be observed post vaccination this may require an additional person for every four vaccinators. As part of the planning phase practices should be discussing with their teams what is the optimal model to safely address their requirements.

- **Public acceptance:**

Across London, LMCs are in discussion with CCGs/ICS/STP about how to ensure that our ethnically diverse populations are provided with appropriate information that recognises cultural sensitivities. Through these routes, practices can be involved in local campaigns to ensure our patients receive the correct information to make an informed decision regarding the vaccine.

Nationally the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) is preparing information on the vaccine and vaccination programme for patients. Despite these developments significant numbers of patients will have individual queries regarding the vaccine. We believe that general practice will not be best placed to respond to, nor have the capacity to be able to respond to, these queries as it is unlikely that practices will have access to any information beyond that which is in the public domain. As such we believe a regional/national helpline will be required and are lobbying to get this service provided.

It is important that prior to the administration of the Covid-19 vaccination, the patient has *information they want or need to make a decision* to proceed with the vaccination. You can read our new [Covid-19 vaccination consent checklist guide](#) and download the actual [vaccination consent checklist here](#).

Covid-19 vaccination programme (CVP) guidance

Training

- [Covid-19: vaccinator training recommendations](#), updated 8.12.2020.
 - [Appendix A: Recommended immunisation training requirements by workforce group for a Covid-19 vaccine](#).
- [Covid-19 vaccinator competency assessment tool](#), updated 8.12.2020.
- [Covid-19 vaccination e-learning programme](#).
- [Covid-19 vaccination training slide set](#).
- [Covid-19 vaccination programme, onboarding components](#), published 30.11.2020.
- [Covid-19 vaccination programme: training products list](#), updated 4.12.2020.
- [Training Mobilisation Matrix Workforce and Training Workstream](#), published 2.12.2020.
- [Covid-19 vaccination programme: training matrix and pathways](#), updated 30.11.2020.

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- [SWL training for Covid-19 vaccination clinics](#), published 9.12.2020.
- [SEL Bromley CVP Vaccination Training](#)
- [SEL Bromley CVP Training Requirements](#)
- [SEL Training Hub training](#)
- [Wessex LMCs: Covid-19 - Vaccination Programme](#)
- [Camden Covid-19 vaccination training dates](#)
- [Health Education England Covid-19 Vaccinator Roles and Training Requirements](#)
- [NCL Coronavirus updates for primary care staff](#)

Contracting

- [Covid-19 Vaccination in Older Adult Care Homes – the next stage](#), published 13.1.2021
- [PHE Covid-19: vaccine surveillance strategy](#), published 11.1.2021.
- [Vaccination sites](#), updated 11.1.2021.
- [Covid-19 Vaccination Centres: Operating Framework](#), published 8.1.2021.
- [Covid-19 vaccination centres: information and guidance on setting up and managing the booking capacity of each](#), published 7.1.2021.
- [Deployment of Covid-19 Vaccine Oxford/AstraZeneca: implications for governance, handling and preparation of vaccines](#), published 31.12.2020.
- [Enhanced Service Specification: Covid-19 vaccination programme 2020/21](#), updated 7.1.2021.
- [Covid-19 vaccination programme 2020/21: Covid-19 Enhanced Service Vaccination Collaboration Agreement](#), published 4.12.2020.
- [Covid-19 vaccination programme 2020/21 – next steps](#), published 1.12.2020.
 - To be read alongside the ES service spec, contains some details of what should be delivered.
- [NHS Covid-19 vaccination programme: equipment and consumables provision and supply \(excluding Public Health England and corporate IT provisions\)](#), published 1.12.2020.
 - [Appendix 1 – Supply Inventory List \(SIL\)](#)
 - [Appendix 1a – Supply item list](#)
 - [Appendix 2 – Locally provided products](#)
 - [Appendix 3a – Hospital hub items](#)
 - [Appendix 3b – Vaccination centre items](#)
 - [Appendix 3c – Local vaccination services \(non NHS\) items](#)
 - [Appendix 3d – Local vaccination services \(NHS\) items](#)
 - [Appendix 3e – PCN roving items](#)
 - [Appendix 4 – Governance and consultation process](#)
- [Government to add Covid-19 to Vaccine Damage Payments Scheme](#), published 3.12.2020.
- [Reg 174 information for UK healthcare professionals](#), updated 8.12.2020.
 - The authorisation from the MHRA to allow the vaccine to be used in the UK, including some information on administration and storage.
 - [PDF version including images of administration process.](#)
- [Conditions of Authorisation for Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine](#), updated 8.12.2020.
 - Sets out the MHRA's expectations of the manufacturer and supply chain providers.
- [Covid-19 vaccination programme standard operating procedure](#), updated 5.1.2021.

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- [Londonwide LMCs coronavirus vaccination programme \(CVP\) collaboration agreement guidance](#), published 10.12.2020
- [Londonwide LMCs Coronavirus vaccination programme \(CVP\) collaboration agreement guidance - amendable Data Sharing Agreement](#), published 10.12.2020

Delivery guidance

- [Covid-19 Clinical Risk Assessment Tool](#), updated 17.2.2021
- [Covid-19 Population Risk Assessment](#), updated 17.2.2021.
- [Shielded Patient List: guidance for General Practice](#), updated 17.2.2021.
- [Information on an additional cohort of patients identified at increased risk from Covid-19, and the implications for their vaccination, support and advice](#), published 15.2.2021.
- [Guidance for Covid-19 vaccination in care homes that have cases and outbreaks version 1](#), published 31.12.2020.
- [Instruction on timing of second dose of Covid-19 vaccinations](#), published 11.1.2021.
- [National protocol for Covid-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca \(ChAdOx1-S \[recombinant\]\)](#), published 10.1.2021.
- [National protocol for Covid-19 mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 \(Pfizer/BioNTech\)](#), updated 10.1.2021.
- [Covid-19 Vaccine Oxford AstraZeneca – movement of vaccine](#), published 7.1.2021.
- [Operational guidance: vaccination of frontline health and social care workers](#), published 7.1.2021.
- [Patient Group Directions for the Covid-19 mRNA vaccine BNT162b2 \(Pfizer/BioNTech\) and the AstraZeneca Covid-19 Vaccine \(ChAdOx1-S \[recombinant\]\): Summary](#), published 6.1.2021.
- [Patient Group Direction for Covid-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca, \(ChAdOx1-S \[recombinant\]\)](#), published 6.1.2021.
- [British Society of Immunology statement on Covid-19 vaccine dosing schedules](#), published 4.1.2021.
- [Covid-19 vaccination programme standard operating procedure](#), updated 5.1.2021.
- [Wave 1 mobilisation of the Primary Care Covid-19 Vaccination Programme 2020/21 -Letter from Dr Nikita Kanani, Ed Waller](#), published 4.12.2020.
- [PCN sites beginning Covid-19 vaccination next week – information to support you to stand up your vaccination service](#), published 7.12.2020.
- [Covid-19: the green book, chapter 14a](#), updated 31.12.2020.
 - Includes dosage and schedule for the UK, recommendations for use.
- [Covid-19 vaccination: information for healthcare practitioners](#), updated 31.12.2020.
- [Priority groups for coronavirus \(Covid-19\) vaccination: advice from the JCVI, 2.12.2020.](#)
 - [Annex A: Covid-19 vaccine and health inequalities: considerations for prioritisation and implementation](#), updated 3.12.2020.
- [Standard operating procedure: Covid-19 vaccine deployment programme hospital hub: care home staff](#), published 7.12.2020.
- [Week One: Implementing the Covid Vaccination Programme](#), updated 4.12.2020.
 - What the 50 hospital delivery sites are expected to do in the week of 7 December.
- [BMA: Covid-19 vaccination programme](#), updated 8.12.2020.
 - [Covid-19 vaccination programme: extra workforce](#), updated 3.12.2020.
- Covid-19 vaccination programme [standard operating procedure](#), published 1.12.2020.

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- [Governance, handling, and preparation of vaccines by GP led Local Vaccination Centres \(PCN designated sites\)](#), published 8.12.2020.
- [MHRA: Confirmation of guidance to vaccination centres on managing allergic reactions following Covid-19 vaccination with the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine](#), published 9.12.2020
 - Introduces 15 minute post-administration observation period and prohibits administration to those with a history of immediate-onset anaphylaxis.

IT

- [NHS Digital: Support for the Covid-19 Vaccination.](#)
- [EMIS newsletter November 2020.](#)
 - States practices will receive vaccination notifications via FHIR when patients are vaccinated in hospital hubs.
- [NHS Digital appointment management into Covid vaccination hubs MS Teams sessions](#)

Information governance

- [Governance, handling, and preparation of vaccines by GP led Local Vaccination Centres \(PCN designated sites\)](#), published 8.12.2020.
 - [Covid-19 vaccination: Governance, handling and preparation of vaccines in Hospital Hubs and Vaccination Centres](#), published 4.12.2020.
- [Londonwide LMCs coronavirus vaccination programme \(CVP\) collaboration agreement guidance](#), published 10.12.2020
- [Londonwide LMCs Coronavirus vaccination programme \(CVP\) collaboration agreement guidance - amendable Data Sharing Agreement](#), published 10.12.2020

Patient facing information/translation

- **Advice for Ramadan and vaccine take-up:** Ramadan is fast approaching and some members of the Islamic Faith, who will be fasting, may be anxious about having the first vaccine now as their next dose will be due in April in the middle of Ramadan. The British Islamic Medical Association is highlighting messaging from Islamic scholars who have said [that the vaccine does not invalidate the fast](#).
- [Guidance on shielding and protecting people who are clinically extremely vulnerable from Covid-19](#), updated 16.2.2021.
- [Covid-19: Vaccination programme FAQ explainer videos - YouTube](#), updated 9.2.2021.
 - [Covid-19: Vaccination programme FAQ explainer text](#) (PDF), added 12.2.2021
- [Information leaflet for UK recipients of Covid-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca](#), published 4.1.2021.
- [NHS main Covid-19 vaccine information page](#), reviewed 7.12.2020.
- [Covid-19 vaccination first phase priority groups](#) (including [poster](#)), published 7.12.2020.
- [Covid-19 vaccination: why you are being asked to wait](#) (including [leaflet](#)), published 7.12.2020.
- [Covid-19 vaccination: what to expect after vaccination](#) (including [leaflet](#)), published 7.12.2020.
- [Covid-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff](#) (including [leaflet](#)), published 7.12.2020.
 - About receiving the vaccine themselves.
- [Covid-19 vaccination: guide for healthcare workers](#) (including [leaflet](#)), updated 31.12.2020.
 - About receiving the vaccine themselves.
- [Covid-19 vaccination: guide for older adults](#) (including [leaflet](#)), published 7.12.2020.

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- [Covid-19 vaccination: women of childbearing age, currently pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding](#) (including [leaflet](#)), updated 31.12.2020.
- [MHRA: Information for UK recipients on Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 vaccine](#), updated 8.12.2020.
 - Fulfils their legal obligations to provide certain information to patients.
- [MHRA: Coronavirus Yellow Card reporting site](#).
 - For patients to report adverse reactions and side effects.
- [British Islamic Medical Association - Position Statement on the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid-19 Vaccine](#), published 6.12.2020.
- [MHRA: Confirmation of guidance to vaccination centres on managing allergic reactions following Covid-19 vaccination with the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine](#), published 9.12.2020
 - Introduces 15 minute post-administration observation period and prohibits administration to those with a history of immediate-onset anaphylaxis.

Consent

- [Covid-19 vaccination: consent forms and letters for care home residents](#), published 7.12.2020.
 - Covid-19 vaccination [consent form](#) and letter ([Word](#) and [open source](#)) for care home residents who are able to consent.
 - Covid-19 vaccination [consent form](#) and letter ([Word](#) and [open source](#)) for care home residents – attorney of a care home resident.
 - Covid-19 vaccination [relative's view form](#) and letter ([Word](#) and [open source](#)) for a care home resident.
- [Covid-19 vaccination: consent form and letter for social care staff](#), published 7.12.2020.
 - [Covid-19 vaccination consent form for social care workers](#).
 - Covid-19 vaccination consent form letter for social care staff ([Word](#) and [open source](#)).
- [Covid-19 vaccination: consent form and letter for healthcare workers](#), published 7.12.2020.
 - [Covid-19 vaccination consent form for healthcare workers](#).
 - Covid-19 vaccination consent form letter for healthcare workers ([Word](#) and [open source](#)).
- [Covid-19 vaccination: consent form and letter for adults](#), published 8.12.2020.
 - [Covid-19 vaccination consent form for adults who are able to consent](#).
 - Covid-19 vaccination consent form letter for adults who are able to consent ([Word](#) and [open source](#)).
- [Legal mechanisms for administration of the Covid-19 Vaccine\(s\)](#), published 5.12.2020.
 - Including requirement to have individual PSDs, until the PGD is published.
- [MHRA: Confirmation of guidance to vaccination centres on managing allergic reactions following Covid-19 vaccination with the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine](#), published 9.12.2020
 - Introduces 15 minute post-administration observation period and prohibits administration to those with a history of immediate-onset anaphylaxis.
- [Academic paper: Safety and efficacy of the ChAdOx1 nCoV-19 vaccine \(AZD1222\) against SARS-CoV-2: an interim analysis of four randomised controlled trials in Brazil, South Africa, and the UK](#), published 8.12.2020.
- [Academic paper: Safety and Immunogenicity of Two RNA-Based Covid-19 Vaccine Candidates](#), published 14.10.2020.
- [Academic paper: Phase I/II study of Covid-19 RNA vaccine BNT162b1 in adults](#), published 12.8.2020.

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- [Londonwide LMCs Covid-19 vaccination consent checklist guide](#), published 10.12.2020
- [Londonwide LMCs Covid-19 vaccination consent checklist](#), published 10.12.2020
- [Londonwide LMCs coronavirus vaccination programme \(CVP\) collaboration agreement guidance](#), published 10.12.2020
- [Londonwide LMCs Coronavirus vaccination programme \(CVP\) collaboration agreement guidance - amendable Data Sharing Agreement](#), published 10.12.2020.

Outstanding issues

- The consent process needs to be confirmed:
 - Please see our [paper on medicolegal considerations relating to the Covid-19 vaccines](#).
- The process for applying for a share of the additional £150m fund that have been released by NHS England to support general practice until the end of March has not yet been provided. This funding has been broken down by STP area:
 - NWL £7.19m
 - NCL £4.11m
 - NEL £4.49m
 - SEL £4.98m
 - SWL £3.99m
- Londonwide LMC is entering into discussions with the STPs to ensure that as per the [national letter](#) 'CCGs should not introduce overly burdensome administrative processes for PCNs and practices to secure support' and that this funding resources is rapidly released to general practice to support the seven priority goals.
- In addition to this funding, the announcement that there will be £120k per STP/ICS to be utilised to support GP recruitment has not yet been discussed to understand how this will best support practices.

Income protection/reduced services

London CCGs have written to practices setting out what activities will be covered by income protection measures as part of their plans to allow practices to focus on core services, including vaccinations.

- North East London – [example letter from City and Hackney CCG](#).
- South East London – [example letter from SEL CCG](#).

We will add further local examples from the other STP areas as they become available. Clinical prioritisation is essential to maintaining safe services; the [RCGP and BMA guidance on workload stratification and prioritisation](#) continues to provide a good framework for this

CCG actions

1. Support practices to focus on core services.
2. Suspend LESs/LCSs other than: vaccinations and Covid-19 related activity, for example reducing hospital admissions or supporting discharge. PMS KPIs are also suspended.
3. Review whether CCG management clinical staff could redeploy to support practice or PCN work.

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National actions

1. Additional funding for PCN CD role to reimburse managing the Covid-19 vaccination response for Q4 (Jan-March 2021), equivalent to an increase from 0.25 WTE to 1 WTE for PCNs participating in the vaccination programme.
2. Minor Surgery DES income to be protected until March 2021 including the related additional service income in the global sum.
3. Quality Improvement domain in QOF to be protected in full at 74 points per practice until March 2021.
4. Eight prescribing indicators within QOF to be income protected on the same basis as the existing 310 points, using 2020/21 list size.
5. Appraisals can be declined, or GPs can use the revised 2020 model.

Resources

National and international resources

- [NHS England Standard Operating Procedure \(SOP\)](#)
- [NHS England information leaflet for UK recipients of Covid-19 vaccine AstraZeneca](#)
- [NHS England updates and guidance](#)
- [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\) advice on priority groups for Covid-19 vaccination](#)
- [RCN large scale vaccination](#)
- [WHO Covid vaccine updates](#)
- [Pfizer vaccine updates](#)
- [Oxford vaccine group updates](#)
- [Moderna vaccine updates](#)

BMA GPC

- [Covid vaccination programme](#)
- [Covid-19 vaccination programme: extra workforce](#)

LMC

- [Londonwide LMCs capacity calculator](#)
- [Surrey and Sussex LMC COVculator](#)
- [Notts LMC Covid vaccination plan](#)
- [Covid-19 vaccination - medicolegal matters](#)
- [QOF 2020-21 repurposed in response to Covid pandemic](#)
- [Covid Vaccination Programme 2020-21 - ES Service Specification guidance](#)
- [Londonwide LMCs Covid-19 vaccination consent checklist guide](#)
- [Londonwide LMCs Covid-19 vaccination consent checklist](#)

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Covid-19 vaccines language resources

- **BBC**
 - [All videos on one page](#)
 - [English](#)
 - [Gujarati](#)
 - [Punjabi](#)
 - [Tamil](#)
 - [Sylheti](#)
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