



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

9 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.



Please can we ask that when you update your vaccination rates in Capacity Tracker, 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 Service<sup>1</sup> 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 site<sup>2</sup> to receive COVID-19 vaccines, and can access priority queuing by presenting [this letter](#)<sup>3</sup> and proof of employment.

Kind regards,

**Sir David Pearson**

Chair Social Care Task  
Force, DHSC

**Deborah Sturdy OBE**

Chief Nurse for Adult  
Social Care, DHSC

**Dr Eamonn O'Moore**

SRO for COVID-19  
Response in Adult  
Social Care, UKHSA

**Dr Nikita Kanani MBE**

Deputy SRO, COVID-19  
Vaccine Deployment  
Programme

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

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

<sup>3</sup> [www.skillsforcare.org/priority-vaccination-letter](http://www.skillsforcare.org/priority-vaccination-letter)