

## **COVID 19 Boosters for frontline health and social care workers – update October 2021**

The Covid-19 booster programme for health and social care workers in Surrey Heartlands (North West Surrey, Guildford and Waverley, East Surrey and Surrey Downs areas) is launching.

The programme will be rolled out to the same priority groups as previously. This means care home residents, health and social care workers, people aged over 50, those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, adult carers, and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals will be prioritised.

Therefore, Health Care Workers in Primary Care, Independent, Voluntary, Charity, NHS Commissioned Services, Social Care and their supporting organisations will now be able to book to get their booster vaccine at a Local Vaccination Service (Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccination Centres ([surreyheartlandscg.nhs.uk](http://surreyheartlandscg.nhs.uk))) or a Community Pharmacy.

Residential Care Home Staff will be offered the booster at the same time as Care Home residents and this programme will be led by the GP Federation.

This approach is based on recommendations from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and aims to prolong the protection the vaccination provides against Covid-19 ahead of the winter months.

To book an appointment please use the following methods based on your location (your NHS Number will be required):

- **East Surrey** - Alliance for Better Care (ABC)

Please complete the self-service form using the following web-link:

[ABC Webform](#) (a text will then be sent allowing you to book an appointment once registered)

- **North West Surrey** - North West Surrey Integrated Care Service (NICS)

Please complete the self-service form using the following web-link:

[NICS Webform](#) (a text will then be sent allowing you to book an appointment once registered)

- **Guildford and Waverley** - ProCare

Please call ProCare to make an appointment on 01483 362522

- **Surrey Downs** - please see details below:
  - Epsom, Leatherhead or Banstead - contact GP Health Partners on 01372 232001
  - East Elmbridge - contact Emberbrook Health Centre on 020 8187 1361
  - Ewell – contact Fitznells Vaccination Centre on 01372 724434
  - Dorking – contact the GP surgery you are registered to

Health and Social Care Workers also have the option to book their COVID-19 booster vaccinations through the National Booking Service ([Book or manage your coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#)) or by ringing 119.

Please see FAQs below however if you have any additional queries please email [syheartlandscg.hcwwaccination@nhs.net](mailto:syheartlandscg.hcwwaccination@nhs.net)

## **FAQs**

### **How soon can I get my booster?**

However, there will be flexibility in the programme, allowing all those eligible to receive their booster from six months after their second doses. This approach will allow more vulnerable people to be given their boosters quicker.

### **Who is eligible?**

- Care home residents
- Front line health and social care workers
  - Healthcare staff and social care workers providing direct care and treatment, including those who have face-to-face contact and provide physical care or treatment.
  - Non-clinical healthcare staff, including those who come into contact with the personal belongings, physical tissue or body fluids of patients, residents or clients. This also includes domestic staff, porters, catering, laundry and receptionists or ward clerks.
  - Healthcare laboratory and pathology staff, including those who frequently handle SARS-CoV-2 or potentially infected items, for example, laboratory staff and those that handle items coming to the lab such as porters and lab receptionists.
  - Social care staff in long-stay care facilities, including those who work in long-stay (over 8 weeks) residential and nursing care homes, for example, domestic staff, porters, catering, laundry and receptionists.
  - Frontline funeral operatives aged 16 years and over including those staff who handle, assist in the removal of, or have direct contact with the deceased's remains or personal belongings, may routinely have close contact with the deceased within the funeral home setting or those who routinely clean areas that come into direct contact with the deceased (for example surfaces where the deceased have been stored or otherwise handled) and private ambulances or similar vehicles used to transport the deceased
- people aged over 50,
- those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19,
- adult carers, and adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals will be prioritised

### **Is confirmation of employment required?**

Yes. As part of the booking process, staff will need to self-declare verbally that they are a frontline health or social care worker when checking in at the vaccination site by confirming that:

- you are a frontline health or social care worker, as identified by [the Green Book](#);
- the type of role/work you do; and
- the name of your employer.

Staff are also asked to provide as proof of employment as an eligible health or social care worker using one of the following (further advice may be given when making a booking):

- A workplace photo ID;
- A recent letter from your employer (past three months) or
- A recent payslip which shows your employer (past three months).

Staff will only be vaccinated if one of these forms of official proof is presented. These ID requirements also apply to individuals who are vaccinated via a walk-in clinic if available.

### **Why do we need boosters?**

The move will ensure the protection vaccines provide for those most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 will be maintained over the winter months. Data published by ONS yesterday shows people who haven't been vaccinated account for around 99% of all deaths involving COVID-19 in England in the first half of this year.

### **Can I get my flu vaccine at the same time?**

The JCVI has also advised that the flu and COVID-19 vaccines can be co-administered. The NHS will now consider where it's appropriate for co-administration to be used to support the roll-out of both programmes and where waiting to deliver one vaccine does not unduly delay administration of the other. It is important people take up the offer of both vaccines when they receive it, so people are encouraged to get both vaccinations as soon as possible rather than waiting for the possibility of getting them together.

### **What vaccine will I receive as a booster?**

People will be offered either a full dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine or a half dose of the Moderna vaccine, following scientific evidence showing that both provide a strong booster response. This will be regardless of which vaccine the individual previously had.

Where neither can be offered, for example for those who have an allergy to either vaccine, the JCVI advise that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine can be used for those who received this vaccine for their first and second doses. The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is safe, effective and has already saved thousands of lives in the UK and around the world.