

Note to all Health Boards - updated rolling offer lines (to replace lines sent 1 March 2023)

Good afternoon,

Please note a change to the lines issued on 1 March 2023 to reflect the change in advice on the rolling offer for those who have entered a clinical risk group since November 2022. The old lines should be replaced with the lines below.

We hope these will help you with communications at board level. As always please don't hesitate to get in touch with any questions.

Background:

- On 25 January 2023 the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) published its interim advice on a 2023 Autumn COVID-19 vaccination programme and the end of the rolling offer for those aged 16 to 49 who are not in a clinical risk group: [JCVI statement on the COVID-19 vaccination programme for 2023: 8 November 2022 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#)
- Please note the change in the lines below – if someone has newly entered a clinically at risk group, including pregnancy, since Winter 2022 they will not be eligible for a booster this spring. They may be offered a COVID-19 booster as part of the Autumn/Winter vaccination programme 2023, depending on what JCVI advise later this year. We will however, identify all those who have entered the newly at risk group since the last data refresh in November 2022 and invite those individuals forward to complete their primary (first or second dose) course. The exception to this is pregnancy as local arrangements will be in place to invite them forward to complete their primary course. Five to 11 years olds (must have turned five by 1 April 2023) will be sent timed appointments and those aged 12 years and over will receive a prompt letter, email or text with information on how to book.
- Please also note that a child with no underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 needs to have turned five by the 31 August 2022 otherwise they are not eligible for any COVID-19 vaccines.

Lines to take – end of the 2022 winter vaccination programme, rolling primary and booster offer for those with no clinical risk factors:

- The 2022 Winter COVID-19 and flu vaccination programme ends in Scotland on 31 March 2023. If you are eligible, please come forward before 31 March if you haven't already taken up the offer. For more information visit NHS inform: www.nhsinform.scot/wintervaccines
- In line with interim JCVI advice if you are aged 50 to 74 years you may be offered a COVID-19 booster as part of the Autumn/Winter vaccination programme 2023. Please come forward before 31 March 2023 if you haven't already taken up the offer of your 2022 winter COVID-19 and flu vaccines to maximise protection against severe COVID-19.
- The offer of primary (first and second) doses will end for 5 to 49 year olds with no underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 on 30 June 2023 in line with the close of the spring booster programme. After 30 June 2023 you will no longer be eligible for any COVID-19 vaccines.
- The offer of an initial booster dose will end for 5 to 49 year olds with no underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 on 31 March 2023 in line with the close of the winter vaccination programme. We encourage anyone who has not yet had their first booster dose to book an appointment as soon as possible: www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/
- If you are aged 16 to 49 years with no underlying health conditions that put you at greater risk of COVID-19 and have not yet come forward for your first, second or booster dose of the COVID-19 vaccine we encourage you to do this as soon as possible. You can book an appointment online at a time and location that suits you: www.nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/
- If your child is aged 5 to 15 years with no underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 and has not yet had their first or second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine we encourage you to bring them forward as soon as possible. Please note if your child has no

underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 they need to have turned five by the 31 August 2022 otherwise they are not eligible for any COVID-19 vaccines.

Appointments for those aged 12 to 15 years can be booked online: www.nhsinform.scot/5to15.

All appointments for children aged 5 to 11 years must be booked by calling the National Vaccination Helpline: 0800 030 8013.

- If your child turned five after 31 August 2022 and has no additional risk factors they won't be eligible for any COVID-19 vaccines.
- If you or your child are aged 5 to 17 years with no underlying health conditions that put you at greater risk of COVID-19 you must wait 12 weeks between each dose.
- If you are aged 18 years and over with no underlying health conditions that put you at greater risk of COVID-19 you must wait eight weeks between your first and second dose and 12 weeks between your second and booster dose.
- Vaccination is still the best way of protecting yourself against severe COVID-19 illness. The vaccine can reduce your risk of developing serious COVID-19 and make your symptoms milder if you do get it.
- You can check eligibility and find trusted, accurate and reliable information that you need to make an informed choice for you or your child on NHS inform: nhsinform.scot/covid-19-vaccine/

Lines to take - rolling primary and booster offer for those with underlying health conditions that put them at greater risk of COVID-19:

- In line with the interim JCVI advice the COVID-19 vaccination primary course and booster offer will move towards a more targeted offer to protect those at higher risk of severe COVID-19 illness.
- In line with interim JCVI advice if you are aged 5 to 74 years and you have a health condition that puts you at higher risk of COVID-19, but you are not considered to have a weakened immune system, you may be offered a COVID-19 booster as part of the Autumn/Winter vaccination programme 2023. Please come forward before 31 March 2023 if you haven't already taken up the offer of your 2022 winter COVID-19 and flu vaccines to maximise protection against severe COVID-19.
- If you or your child are aged 12 to 49 years and have entered a clinical risk group since November 2022 and have not had your primary (first or second) doses you will be sent a prompt letter, email or text with information on how to book an appointment before 30 June 2023. The exception to this is pregnancy as local arrangements will be in place to encourage those forward who have not completed their primary course.
- If your child is aged 5 to 11 years and has developed an underlying condition since November 2022 that put them at greater risk of COVID-19 and they have not yet had their primary (first or second) doses you will be sent a timed appointment before 30 June 2023.
- After 30 June 2023, if you have or develop an underlying condition that put you at higher risk of COVID-19 and have not yet had your primary (first or second) doses you can still get these as part of the next seasonal COVID-19 vaccination programme, e.g. winter 2023
- Vaccination outwith seasonal COVID-19 vaccination programmes for those who are very clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 would be subject to individual clinical judgement and referral pathways are in place.

Lines to take – booking portal:

- If you have not yet come forward for any COVID-19 vaccines or received a COVID-19 vaccination invitation letter, and you are 12 or over, you can register online for an appointment: <https://register.vacs.nhs.scot/> . You need to be registered with a GP practice to use this service. If you aren't, you can phone the national vaccination helpline on 0800 030 8013.
- If you have had a COVID-19 vaccine before, but not yet received all the doses you are eligible for, you can book your outstanding doses via the booking portal: <https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp> or attend a local drop-in clinic: nhsinform.scot/vaccinedropinclinics The offer of a booster dose will end for healthy 16 to 49 year olds on 31 March 2023. The offer of primary (first and second) doses offer will end on 30 June 2023.

- To book online you will need your unique vaccination user name - you can find this on any appointment letter or email that you have received previously.
- If you do not know your user name you can recover it using a past vaccination date which you can find on your COVID-19 status app or paper copy of your record of vaccination.
- If you do not know a past vaccination date you would need to call the National Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013.
- If you cannot remember your password and have an email address registered with your account, you can recover it here: <https://vacs.nhs.scot/csp>
- If you have not registered with an email address you will need to call the National Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013.

Lines to take – requirement of COVID-19 vaccine to travel:

- If you require a COVID-19 vaccination due to countries or airlines requiring proof of vaccination for travel or visas your Health Board can offer this outside of defined seasonal programmes. Contact NHS [XXX] on XXX to arrange this. You may be asked for specific travel documentation to be vaccinated and you won't be charged for your vaccination.

Many thanks,

Chloe Duffus

Stakeholder Engagement and Communications Manager

Vaccine Operational Policy Division

Population Health Directorate

Scottish Government

chloe.duffus@gov.scot

