

Frontline health and social care worker eligibility guidance for FVCV winter 2024–25

This winter, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has not advised vaccinating frontline health and social care workers (HSCWs) aged 16 and over against COVID-19. However, in Scotland a policy decision has been made to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to this group. JCVI advice on flu vaccination for frontline HSCWs remains unchanged and they remain eligible for flu vaccination this winter. This has been confirmed in the [Winter programme 2024 – seasonal flu and COVID-19 vaccination CMO letter](#).

Below is a list of groups and occupations which outlines who is eligible for COVID-19 and/or flu vaccination. The list is not exhaustive, so if health boards identify other individuals or groups that they feel meet the definition of ‘frontline HSCW’, they can be vaccinated. Further guidance on what frontline means in terms of flu can be found in the [Influenza: the green book, chapter 19](#).

| Group | COVID-19 | Flu |
|--|----------|-----|
| Agency/locum healthcare staff: Non-clinical ancillary staff who may have multiple social contacts with patients but are not directly involved in patient care: This group includes receptionists, ward clerks, porters and cleaners | ✓ | ✓ |
| Allied health professional clinical support workers, including Scottish Ambulance Service (SAS): Service technicians and clinical support staff (including unpaid volunteer community first responders providing immediate support to patients in remote and rural environments), radiography assistants | ✓ | ✓ |
| Allied health professionals: Paramedics, podiatrists, physiotherapists, occupational therapists, radiographers, audiologists | ✓ | ✓ |
| Care at home staff, personal care assistants, social workers* | ✓ | ✓ |
| Chiropractors and osteopaths | ✓ | ✓ |

| Group | COVID-19 | Flu |
|---|----------|-----|
| Healthcare Improvement Scotland and Care Inspectorate inspectors who are required to visit premises with vulnerable patients | ✓ | x |
| Healthcare students | ✓ | ✓ |
| Hospital-based doctors and laboratory staff | ✓ | ✓ |
| Memory clinic staff providing care to clinically vulnerable people or the elderly | ✓ | ✓ |
| MoD primary healthcare services frontline workers (primary healthcare to MoD staff deployed to or based in Scotland) | ✓ | ✓ |
| NHS contracted community-based primary care services providers and clinical support staff who are patient-facing (GP, dental, optometry, community pharmacy) | ✓ | ✓ |
| Registered nurses and midwives, including healthcare and midwifery support workers | ✓ | ✓ |
| Scottish Ambulance Service frontline workers | ✓ | ✓ |
| Scottish National Blood Transfusion frontline workers | ✓ | ✓ |
| Scottish Register of Language Professionals with the Deaf community if working regularly across multiple settings with the elderly or with people with eligible health conditions | ✓ | x |
| Staff at schools for children with additional support needs (ASN) | ✓ | ✓ |
| Vaccinators and vaccination centre staff working closely with patients on a regular basis | ✓ | ✓ |
| Volunteers assisting vulnerable patients with transport to and from vaccination centres | ✓ | x |

* If a person works in the health or social care sector and they provide close, direct care for patients, clients or service users, then they should be considered for vaccination.