

Classification: Official

Publications approval reference: C1316

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To:

- All practices
- Community Pharmacy led COVID-19 vaccination sites
- ICS and STP leads
- All CCG Accountable Officers and Clinical Leads

Copy to:

- NHS Regional Directors
- NHS Regional Directors of Commissioning

10 June 2021

Dear colleagues

Further funding and support for PCN and Community Pharmacy-led COVID-19 vaccination sites

PCN and Community Pharmacy-led COVID-19 vaccination sites have played a vital role in the administration of over 58 million COVID-19 vaccinations to date. We are incredibly grateful for all you have done to support the programme.

It is vital over the coming weeks that we continue to deliver second doses for cohorts 1-9 in line with the accelerated JCVI guidance, and first doses for remaining adult cohorts as quickly as supply allows so as to mitigate the risks of variants. We recognise that many primary care staff have faced a long and challenging year, and that additional capacity is key to support providers to deliver the COVID-19 vaccinations alongside core primary care services and recovery.

This letter therefore outlines further actions we are taking to support PCN and Community Pharmacy-led vaccination sites to continue to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations. This is in the wider context of general practice being busier than ever before.

- 1. We will provide an additional £20 million to ICS/STPs to support primary care providers to draw down additional staff through their lead employer to help deliver the COVID-19 vaccination programme between 16 June and 14 July 2021.**

Each ICS/STP has been allocated a proportion of the £20 million funding – see Annex A for the breakdown. ICS/STPs will directly reimburse lead employers

for additional staff drawn down by community pharmacy-led COVID-19 vaccination sites and PCN-led sites (that are delivering vaccinations to cohorts 10-12) between 16 June and 14 July up to the maximum amounts outlined. The funding has been allocated on the basis of site numbers to provide an average of seven additional staff (including some from the volunteer bank) for the four week period covering a range of roles depending on need. The intention is for the additional staffing to be made available in the 4 week period outlined. However, if that is not fully possible for logistical reasons, this should be discussed with the ICS and an alternative arrangement agreed in advance with the regional team.

This will bring in extra workforce to support the recovery of NHS services and another busy and crucial period for the COVID-19 vaccination deployment programme. This funding is ringfenced to provide additional workforce capacity to local vaccination services and cannot be used for other purposes.

Over 100,000 experienced and trained staff (both clinical and non-clinical) as well as volunteers are ready to help with vaccination delivery and workforce resilience. All staff have been fully vetted and trained and are available from NHS Professionals, NHS Volunteer Responders and St John Ambulance for deployment across the country.

ICSs are asked to work with their PCNs, Community Pharmacy-led vaccination sites and their lead employer to ensure this funding is deployed where it is most needed to increase uptake and tackle health inequalities.

Lead employers can assist with the provision of different types of roles such as registered healthcare professionals and unregistered vaccinators. These may be people that have been recruited through local recruitment activities or drawn down from the national workforce suppliers.

Accessing this additional support is contingent on:

- Providers administering all COVID-19 vaccines delivered to them within a week of the vaccines being delivered
- PCNs bringing forward second dose appointments where necessary in line with JCVI guidance
- Community Pharmacy-led vaccination sites ensuring as many second dose slots as possible are opened up to enable citizens to rebook in line with JCVI guidelines.

To achieve the maximum benefit of this draw down support, we are encouraging all services to consider implementing the national protocol as the mechanism for delivering vaccines. Protocols have been updated to allow non-registered vaccinators with experience to be deployed to administer the COVID-19 vaccinations, provided they are appropriately trained and working under clinical supervision.

Guidance on accessing workforce supply can be found on NHS Futures:
<https://future.nhs.uk/CovidVaccinations/view?objectId=100783781>

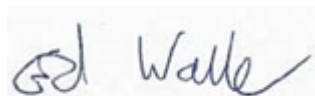
Where local vaccination services are experiencing issues with their lead employer they can contact the national primary care workforce interface team for support at: **PCNCP.workforceescalation@nhs.net**.

- 2. We are asking CCGs and ICSs to offer all possible support to primary care to bring forward second dose appointments in line with JCVI guidance.** We recognise that rescheduling clinics takes significant time and resource particularly for administrative staff. Further to our announcement on 20 May that PCNs can claim an additional £1,000 for rescheduling appointments in line with JCVI's guidance (<https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/05/C1295-further-details-on-the-support-available-for-pcn-led-sites.pdf>), we are also asking CCGs and systems to consider if they could deploy any administrative staff to support PCNs that are still needing to reschedule appointments. CCGs and systems are also asked to consider supporting Community Pharmacies to bring forward appointments and maximise second dose appointments on the National Booking System.
- 3. We are asking CCGs to seek to minimise any burden associated with locally commissioned services at this time where these do not support COVID-19 vaccination, COVID-19 related activities or recovery activities.**
- 4. We are moving to a new allocations timetable to give vaccination providers earlier notice of vaccine supply.** Currently, final vaccine schedules are issued 10 days in advance of the start of each vaccination week. As supply predictability has improved, going forward sites will be provided with the final weekly vaccine schedule 17 days prior to the start of the vaccination week. This should give sites more time to plan workforce and enable patients to book appointments further ahead than has been previously possible.

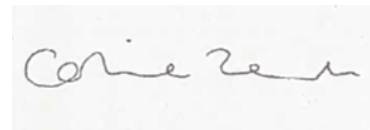
With our appreciation and thanks for everything you are doing.



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Annex A: Funding allocations by ICS/STP

Region	STP/ICS	Sum of Total Sites	Sum of Total Cost
East of England	Bedfordshire, Luton and Milton Keynes	10	£146,007.95
	Cambridgeshire and Peterborough	20	£292,015.91
	Hertfordshire and West Essex	24	£350,419.09
	Mid and South Essex	27	£394,221.48
	Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership	32	£467,225.45
	Suffolk and North East Essex	28	£408,822.27
East of England Total		141	£2,058,712.16
London	East London Health and Care Partnership	33	£506,171.25
	North London Partners in Health and Care	31	£475,494.20
	North West London Health and Care Partnership	35	£536,848.30
	Our Healthier South East London	58	£889,634.32
	South West London Health and Care Partnership	31	£475,494.20
London Total		188	£2,883,642.27
Midlands	Birmingham and Solihull	28	£408,822.27
	Coventry and Warwickshire	26	£379,620.68
	Herefordshire and Worcestershire	17	£248,213.52
	Joined Up Care Derbyshire	29	£423,423.07
	Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland	30	£438,023.86
	Lincolnshire	14	£204,411.14
	Northamptonshire	22	£321,217.50
	Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Health and Care	19	£277,415.11
	Shropshire and Telford and Wrekin	9	£131,407.16
	Staffordshire and Stoke on Trent	30	£438,023.86
	The Black Country and West Birmingham	31	£452,624.66
Midlands Total		255	£3,723,202.84
North East and Yorkshire	Cumbria and North East	106	£1,547,684.32
	Humber, Coast and Vale	59	£861,446.93
	South Yorkshire and Bassetlaw	38	£554,830.23
	West Yorkshire and Harrogate (Health and Care Partnership)	55	£803,043.75
North East and Yorkshire Total		258	£3,767,005.23
North West	Cheshire and Merseyside	57	£832,245.34
	Greater Manchester Health and Social Care Partnership	59	£861,446.93
	Healthier Lancashire and South Cumbria	40	£584,031.82
North West Total		156	£2,277,724.09
South East	Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West	51	£744,640.57
	Frimley Health and Care ICS	13	£189,810.34
	Hampshire and the Isle of Wight	47	£686,237.39
	Kent and Medway	43	£627,834.20
	Surrey Heartlands Health and Care Partnership	29	£423,423.07
	Sussex Health and Care Partnership	35	£511,027.84
South East Total		218	£3,182,973.41
South West	Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire	23	£335,818.30
	Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire	29	£423,423.07
	Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly Health and Social Care Partnership	17	£248,213.52
	Devon	21	£306,616.70
	Dorset	23	£335,818.30
	Gloucestershire	16	£233,612.73
	Somerset	13	£189,810.34
South West Total		142	£2,073,312.95
Grand Total		1358	£19,966,572.95