**COVID-19 vaccination programme: inclusion of cohort 10 (40-49 year olds) in the booster programme and second dose vaccination for remaining 16 to 17 year olds (i.e. those not in cohorts 1, 2, 4 or 6)**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has published on 15 November [advice on boosters for cohort 10 (those aged 40-49 years old)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-booster-vaccine-programme-for-winter-2021-to-2022-jcvi-statement-november-2021/update-to-jcvi-advice-on-booster-vaccination-in-adults-15-november-2021) and [second doses for 16 to 17 year olds not in an at-risk group](file:///\\ims.gov.uk\data\Users\GBBULVD\BULHOME31\ARoessing\Data\Desktop\Phase%203\29-10-21%2016-17%202D\Joint%20Committee%20on%20Vaccination%20and%20Immunisation%20(JCVI)%20advice%20on%20COVID-19%20vaccination%20in%20people%20aged%2016%20to%2017%20years:%2015%20November%202021%20-%20GOV.UK%20(www.gov.uk)) and the [Green Book Chapter 14a](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1033391/Greenbook_chapter_14a_15Nov21.pdf) has been updated.

This ops note should be read in conjunction with the [system letter on boosters for cohort 10 and second doses for remaining 16 to17-year olds](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/covid-19-vaccination-deployment-booster-vaccination-for-cohort-10-and-second-doses-for-16-and-17-year-olds/) on 15 November 2021 and the ops note on next steps to deliver vaccinations up to 31 January and support for housebound vaccinations.

**SUMMARY OF KEY DATES**

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| **15 November** | [Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation publish advice on inclusion of cohort 10 (40 – 49 year olds) in the booster programme](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-booster-vaccine-programme-for-winter-2021-to-2022-jcvi-statement-november-2021/update-to-jcvi-advice-on-booster-vaccination-in-adults-15-november-2021)  [Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation publish advice on a second dose for remaining 16 to 17 year olds (those in cohorts 1,2,4, or 6)](file:///\\ims.gov.uk\data\Users\GBBULVD\BULHOME31\ARoessing\Data\Desktop\Phase%203\29-10-21%2016-17%202D\Joint%20Committee%20on%20Vaccination%20and%20Immunisation%20(JCVI)%20advice%20on%20COVID-19%20vaccination%20in%20people%20aged%2016%20to%2017%20years:%2015%20November%202021%20-%20GOV.UK%20(www.gov.uk)) |
| **w/c 15 November** | All vaccination sites review capacity available for 16 to 17 year olds, both via NBS and Grab a Jab |
| **17 November** | Interim deadline for regions to confirm the opt in position of those PCN sites using the NBS. |
| **18 November 2021** | Final deadline for regions to confirm the opt in position of those PCN sites using the NBS. |
| **22 November** | Deadline for PCN Groupings to **opt in** to deliver booster vaccinations to cohort 10. |
| **w/c 22 November** | 1. Patient Group Directions and National Protocols for Pfizer BioNTech / Comirnaty ® COVID-19 vaccine are being revised in order that second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine can be administered to remaining 16 to 17 year olds in line with revised JCVI guidance. 2. The National Booking System will be available for bookings for:    * Booster bookings for eligible people in cohort 10, and    * 2nd dose bookings for remaining 16 -17 year olds. 3. The Grab-a-Jab walk-in site finder at [www.nhs.uk/grab-a-jab](http://www.nhs.uk/grab-a-jab) will be updated to reflect latest changes. |
| **25 November** | National invites will start to be sent to remaining 16 to 17 year olds. |

**Operational Guidance**

**Patient Group Directions (PGD) or National Protocols**

No updates are required to the PGDs and National Protocols for boosters for cohort 10. Moderna/Spikevax ® and Pfizer BioNTech/Comirnaty ® remain the preferred vaccine choices for booster doses.  A Moderna / Spikevax ® booster dose is 0.25ml.

The Comirnaty ®/ Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 PGDs and National Protocols are being revised for second doses for 16 to 17 year olds not at risk. We expect updated versions to be published week commencing 22 November.

**Managing booking capacity**

* From 22 November 2021, the National Booking System will enable all 16 to 17-year olds who have not had their second dose vaccination as part of the Phase 1 offer to book a second dose appointment on the NBS. Patients will see second dose booking appointments from 12 weeks following administration of their first dose.
* The NBS website will continue to direct at-risk 16 to 17-year olds who are eligible for a second dose 8 weeks after their first dose to alternative offers such as walk-in clinics. The booking journey of 8 weeks is not possible on the NBS and this cohort can only book an appointment on the NBS if they have already passed the 12 weeks interval following their first dose.

**Supply**

* Sites that are offering both Moderna/Spikevax ® and Pfizer BioNTech/Comirnaty ® are advised to retain Comirnaty ® capacity/supply to support the operationalisation of the offer to 16 to 17 year olds.
* If uplifts of vaccine supply are required these can be requested through the Supply Planner following usual processes for future weeks where the plans are still open. If there is a more urgent need for additional vaccine supply, sites should raise this with their SVOC in the first instance.

**Vaccinating**

* From 22 November, vaccination sites are required to offer a second COVID-19 vaccine dose to all 16 to 17-year olds.
  + **For those not at-risk** the JCVI recommend an interval of at least 12 weeks between the first and second dose. For those individuals who have had a first dose and a proven coronavirus infection, JVCI recommend that the second dose should be given at least 12 weeks after the first dose or following the infection, whichever is later.
  + **For those at risk (cohorts 1, 2, 4, or 6)** the JCVI continue to recommend an interval of at least 8 weeks between the first and second dose.
* Following the JCVI advice, the previously categorised 17.75 group will now be incorporated into the 16 to 17 year olds group and will become eligible for a second dose at least 12 weeks after their first. For those who book their second dose appointment once they attain 18 years of age, a minimum 8 week interval will apply. For those 17.75 year olds and above who have already booked their second dose appointment with an 8 week interval, the booking remains valid.  When these individuals attend their appointment they should be informed that they can rebook for a 12 week interval, although if they consent, vaccination can occur at the existing appointment.
* Sites must only vaccinate 16 to 17-year olds when regionally assured and at times when the requirements of the [checklist Part A](https://future.nhs.uk/CovidVaccinations/view?objectId=111688741) are being met and a legal mechanism such as a PSD, PGD or National Protocol is in place. PCNs are not required to have regional assurance, however, they must meet the [checklist Part A requirements](https://future.nhs.uk/CovidVaccinations/view?objectId=111688741) and have a legal mechanism in place. CP and VC vaccination sites that do not yet meet the requirements [of the readiness checklist Part A](https://future.nhs.uk/CovidVaccinations/view?objectId=111688741) must do so as soon as possible, working with their regional teams and systems who must confirm readiness.
* VC/CP/HH+s using the NBS must confirm that they can accept this cohort on their QFlow profile (under [accessibility attributes](https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/vaccinations/training-and-onboarding/national-booking-service-training-and-onboarding/q-flow-guidance/manage-location-details)).
* Site leads are responsible for developing local processes to ensure compliance with the [checklist Part A](https://future.nhs.uk/CovidVaccinations/view?objectId=111688741), the mechanism (e.g. Patient Group Direction) used for administering the vaccine, and the [workforce considerations for vaccinating children](https://future.nhs.uk/CovidVaccinations/view?objectId=108802789). Sites require a dedicated safeguarding professional and clinical lead and are advised to engage with the local safeguarding team when developing the local process.
* All sites must have the following processes in place at arrival and brief all staff, including front-of-house volunteers and site security on these requirements:
* to identify 16 to 17-year olds immediately at check-in and ensure they are routed to be seen by appropriately trained staff.
* to identify at-risk 16 to 17-year olds in cohorts 1, 2, 4 or 6 who are eligible for a second dose **8 weeks** after administration of their first dose and ensure they are vaccinated or scheduled.
* to turn-away those aged 16 to 17 who are not at-risk and request their second dose before the JCVI advised 12 weeks interval after administration of their first dose. The exception to this are those individuals aged 17.75 years who already have a second dose appointment booked with an 8 week interval.
* sites must consider practical solutions to separate the vaccination of young people from adults. Local risk assessments should be completed to ensure pathways between young people and adults are separated.
* For disabled young people it is essential that reasonable adjustments are considered with individuals/families and recorded ahead of the vaccination appointment and provided to all members of the Immunising Team involved in the care of the young person involved.
* Comirnaty® /Pfizer BioNTech is the preferred vaccine type for this age group. However, the [Green Book](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1029750/Greenbook_chapter_14a_29Oct21.pdf) advises second doses should ideally be of the same vaccine type. Where an alternative vaccine type was administered for the first dose, the young person may receive the same vaccine for their second dose under a Patient Specific Direction (PSD) or prescriber administration if clinically appropriate.
* Regional teams and systems must monitor available capacity and support sites with assurance and local operational intelligence to make vaccinations available to 16 to 17 year olds through a combination of walk-in clinics and pre-booked appointments.

**ACTIONS REQUIRED**

**Community Pharmacy (CP) contractors**

* As required in paragraph 4.2 and 8.2 of the [Community Pharmacy local enhanced service COVID-19 vaccination programme: Phase 3 2021/ 22](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/07/C1225-community-pharmacy-les-for-phase-3-covid-19-vacc-programme-v2.pdf) LES, Community Pharmacy-led sites must meet the requirements outlined in this (published) guidance, then commence vaccination of 16 and 17 year olds for first and second doses. This guidance is published at <https://future.nhs.uk/connect.ti/P_C_N/view?objectId=27363824>, and will be accessible to all site leads. Additional access to the published document can be requested through the web link or by e-mail to [england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net](mailto:england.pccovidvaccine@nhs.net)
* Community Pharmacy-led sites are asked to increase capacity as much as possible to support the opening of boosters for cohort 10 and second doses for 16 to 17 year olds not at risk **from 22 November**. Vaccine should be requested using the usual process.

**Vaccination Centres and Hospital Hubs+**

* Booster vaccination of cohort 10 and second doses for 16 to 17 year olds not at risk are covered under the existing agreements of the Service Specification. Second doses can be delivered from 22 November 2021.
* Vaccination Centres and Hospital Hubs+ are asked to increase capacity as much as possible to support the opening of cohort 10 on **22 November**. Vaccine should be requested using the usual process.

**PCN-Grouping led vaccination sites**

* A small amend has been made to the Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service specification to enable PCN Groupings to administer second doses to eligible 16-17 year olds not in cohorts 1,2,4,6 available at [C1377-Enhanced-Service-Specifications-COVID-19-vaccination-programme\_-phase-3-2021-22\_16092021.pdf (england.nhs.uk)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/07/C1377-Enhanced-Service-Specifications-COVID-19-vaccination-programme_-phase-3-2021-22_16092021.pdf)
* PCN Groupings with Local Booking Systems (LBS) should start inviting eligible 16 to 17 year olds to book their 2nd dose appointments.  Second doses for those not in cohorts 1, 2, 4 or 6 can be administered from 22 November 2021.
* We recognise that general practice is under significant pressure and that some PCN Groupings may not have capacity to support the delivery of booster vaccinations to further cohorts alongside the provisions of core primary medical services and winter pressures. We are therefore inviting PCN Groupings to **opt in** to deliver booster vaccinations to cohort 10 (and any further cohorts subsequently added to the booster programme subject to Commissioner (NHSE) agreement) by **22 November** if they have sufficient capacity to do so. PCN Groupings should inform their local commissioner (CCG) whether they wish to opt in by **22 November.**
* **For PCN Groupings onboarded onto NBS please let your local commissioner know by 17 November (interim view) and 18 November (final view) if you are likely to opt out as your NBS calendar will need to be locked if you opt out (see below).**
* The **General Practice Phase 3 COVID-19 vaccination enhanced service (ES)** has been updated to reflect this : <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/enhanced-service-specification-phase-3-coronavirus-vaccination/>
* PCN Groupings are reminded of the workforce offer available to support them to deliver the programme. Please contact your lead employer if you require further support.
* As this is an extension to the existing ES specification, the same practices which signed up to the ES initially (and which make up the PCN Grouping) must all make the same decision as to whether to opt in.

**Where all practices in a PCN Groupings opt in**:

* Booster vaccines can be administered to eligible people in cohort 10 from **22 November** via local bookings, NBS bookings and walk ins (including Grab a Jab clinics).
* Once a PCN Grouping has opted in, they can invite eligible people to book an appointment via their local booking system.
* Any additional vaccine required should be requested using the usual process.
* The LVS SOP will shortly be updated to reflect the announcement of booster doses for cohort 10 (40-49year olds), second doses for those aged 16 and above, and some other recent changes on the programme. The updated SOP will be available here [Coronavirus » Standard operating procedure: Phases 1, 2 and 3 including vaccination of eligible children and young people (england.nhs.uk)](https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/standard-operating-procedure-covid-19-local-vaccination-services-deployment-in-community-settings/).

**Where practices in a PCN Grouping do not opt in**

* The PCN Grouping should continue to deliver boosters to Cohorts 1 - 9 and the evergreen offer under the phase 3 enhanced service. PCN Groupings have a critical role to play in the vaccination of vulnerable cohorts and should continue to prioritise the vaccination of care home residents, those with severe immunosuppression, and patients who are housebound and/or have other conditions which put them at higher risk of COVID-19.
* **Please note, if a PCN Grouping opts out of delivering booster vaccines to cohort 10 and is onboarded onto the National Booking Service (NBS), any existing calendars on NBS will be disabled and removed from visibility to the public.** Any existing bookings made prior to this date will be maintained however if an existing booking is subsequently amended by the citizen they will not be able to re-book with the site. In addition, any patient wanting to book a first, or second dose or from an earlier cohort will no longer be able to view availability at the site from the date cohort 10 are able to access the National Booking Service. This is because it is currently not possible to prevent cohort 10 from booking an appointment via an open calendar on NBS. We are working with system developers to identify options that will enable this in the future. In the meantime, please use your local booking systems to arrange any future clinics.
* PCN Groupings will also need to ensure any walk-in provision is restricted for any cohort 10 patients wishing to receive their booster vaccination.
* If the site is also providing vaccination services for 12-15 year olds under a separate contractual agreement and are using NBS to advertise these appointments via a separate calendar, these specific appointments will not be affected by the above.
* In exceptional circumstances, should a PCN Grouping wish to “opt in” to deliver boosters to Cohort 10 after 22 November please liaise with your NHS England and NHS Improvement regional team.

**CCGs and local systems**

* CCGs and local systems on behalf of NHS England and NHS Improvement (as the Commissioner) are asked to liaise with their PCN Groupings to understand their capacity to support the delivery of booster vaccines to cohort 10 alongside core primary medical services. They are asked to have early conversations with PCN Groupings that are onboarded onto the NBS as it important we have early sight nationally of any PCN sites on the NBS who are not able to deliver boosters to cohort 10 so we can lock their NBS calendars.
* Regions will be asked to submit an interim return to the national team [necsu.lvsfoundrydata@nhs.net](mailto:necsu.lvsfoundrydata@nhs.net) by **noon on 17 November and final return by 17.00 on 18 November** to confirm which PCN Groupings on the NBS have opted out. *Please note that if the national team do not receive confirmation if a PCN Grouping on NBS has opted in by 17.00 on 18* ***November*** *we will assume they have opted out and disable any existing calendars on NBS (excluding any calendars solely for 12-15 year olds].*
* CCGs are asked to confirm to their NHS England and NHS Improvement regional team which remaining PCN Groupings i.e. those not on the NBS have opted in by **close 22 November** (or before if possible)**.**
* Regional teams to confirm to us by **COP Tuesday 23 November** (or before if possible).
* A short template will be shortly be circulated via regions for CCGs to complete. Many thanks for your support with this task.