



Department
of Health &
Social Care

CARE

Adult Social Care Delivery
Directorate
39 Victoria Street
Westminster
London
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To:

Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Adult Social Services
Chief Executives of Integrated Care Systems
All registered providers

17 December 2021

Dear Colleagues

Priority access to COVID-19 Booster vaccinations for social care workers

I'm writing to reiterate and highlight an important aspect of the NHS COVID-19 booster campaign.

On 14 December, NHS England issued operational guidance to all vaccination centres on the delivery of boosters. This included a request to all sites that they consider how best to support **frontline health and social care workers, to access queue management and priority lines** when presenting a valid ID. Sites are also to make reasonable adjustments for pregnant women, the clinically vulnerable, including LD/autism and SMI, as well as for their carers.

It's so important that social care workers, and anyone receiving or giving care, whether paid or unpaid, gets their booster this winter, and I am grateful for the priority that has been given to allow this priority access. In order to get priority access at a vaccination centre, sites will likely ask to see a workplace photo ID, or a recent letter or payslip from their employer as proof of their employment, so do encourage this where possible.

For some social care workers and unpaid carers having an ID is not possible, and they therefore may feel discouraged from requesting this priority service. I ask of colleagues that this letter to be cascaded to all of those social care workers and carers whom it may support in giving them access to priority lines for queueing at any vaccination centre.

For vaccination centre staff, please allow the bearer of this letter priority access to your services, as they have been identified as a social care worker or carer.

Being vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 is the best way we can mitigate against the Omicron variant this winter. I'm very grateful to all the social care workers and carers that have done such a fantastic job throughout the course of this pandemic, and we are committed to ensuring everyone in the sector is as protected as possible and has access to vaccines.



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Of course, social care workers and carers, indeed everyone over the age of 18, can also continue book a vaccination slot via the National Booking Service¹ and should do so now if it has been two months since their second dose so that they can receive their booster vaccination once three months has passed. They can also use any walk-in vaccination centre² to get protected and use this letter to request priority access on site.

Kind regards,

David Pearson

Sir David Pearson

Chair Social Care Task Force, Department of Health and Social Care

¹ <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

² <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/find-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/>