



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

**CARE**

**To**

Local Authority Chief Executives  
& Directors of Adult Social Services  
CCGs  
PCNs, NBS & National Vaccination  
Providers  
Carers organisations

Adult Social Care Delivery  
Directorate  
39 Victoria Street  
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London  
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8 March 2021

Dear Colleagues

### **COVID-19 vaccinations for eligible unpaid carers**

On 15 February we met the government's target to offer a vaccine to everyone within the top four priority cohorts, as set by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). We're really pleased to again report on the huge strides the community is taking to protect those vulnerable to COVID-19 and our vital care workers.

This pandemic has taught us all the value of recognition for all the unsung heroes across health and social care, and so it's right that we now protect and support those that help so many of us to live our lives in a more positive way, by vaccinating those unpaid carers that look after people vulnerable to COVID-19.

We have published a Standard Operating Procedure on the process for vaccinating eligible unpaid carers <sup>1</sup> and we're very grateful to all the partners that helped us to set out a process that reaches so many, and in particular to Carers UK, Carers Trust, ADASS and the LGA who have co-badged the SOP.

Similar to other cohorts, all eligible carers will be contacted by the NHS when it's their turn to get the vaccine and will be given the information they need to book a vaccination. As outlined in the SOP, we are working from lists of 'known' carers to do this.

NHS England and NHS Improvement is collating lists of unpaid carers drawn from a mixture of national and local sources, including:

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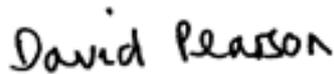
<sup>1</sup> <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/publication/sop-covid-19-vaccine-deployment-programme-unpaid-carers-jcvi-priority-cohort-6/>

- Those known to GPs who have a 'carers flag' on their primary care record
- Those in receipt of or entitled to a carers allowance
- Those known to Local Authorities who are in receipt of support following a carers assessment
- Those known to local carers organisations to be actively receiving support

We know that there are many carers unknown to the system, and we want to do everything we can to get vaccines to those that need it, and who are eligible because they support someone who is at risk. So, in the coming week we will publish further information on an application process for those eligible unpaid carers that aren't already known to access their vaccination.

We thank you all again for the huge amount of work being done, and for the huge collaborative effort that continues to deliver vaccines to millions across the UK.

Yours sincerely



**Sir David Pearson**

**Chair  
Social Care Sector Covid-19  
Taskforce**



**Dr Emily Lawson**

**NHS Chief Commercial Officer and  
SRO Vaccine Deployment**