



Dear Colleague,

## SPRING COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME 2025

We are writing to provide you with further information on the 2025 spring COVID-19 vaccination programme which will run from 31 March to 30 June 2025.

### Key Objectives

1. The aim of the COVID-19 immunisation programme is to prevent serious disease (hospitalisation and/or mortality) arising from COVID-19, with age being strongly associated with the risk of hospitalisation and mortality from COVID-19, with the oldest in the population being the most vulnerable.

### Eligibility

2. For spring 2025, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) [statement](#) advises that a COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to:
  - Residents in care homes for older adults
  - All adults aged 75 years and over
  - Individuals aged 6 months and over who are immunosuppressed (as defined in tables 3 and 4 in the [COVID-19 chapter of the Green Book](#))

To note, these cohorts are identical to those vaccinated in spring 2024.

### Programme Age Limits

3. To be eligible this spring, an individual must turn 75 years of age on or before 30 June 2025, so will have been born on or before 30 June 1950.
4. An infant must be 6 months old by the programme start date of 31 March, so will have been born on or before 30 September 2024.
5. Further details on date of birth ranges that have been used to derive the cohorts can be found in **Annex A**.

**From Chief Medical Officer  
Interim Chief Nursing Officer  
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**  
Professor Sir Gregor Smith  
Anne Armstrong  
Professor Alison Strath

DATE: 19/03/2025

SGHD/CMO(2025)3

### Addresses

#### For action

Chief Executives, NHS Boards  
Medical Directors, NHS Boards  
Nurse Directors, NHS Boards  
Primary Care Leads, NHS Boards  
Directors of Nursing & Midwifery, NHS Boards  
Chief Officers of Integration Authorities  
Chief Executives, Local Authorities  
Directors of Pharmacy  
Directors of Public Health  
General Practitioners  
Practice Nurses  
School Nurses  
Immunisation Co-ordinators  
CPHMs  
Scottish Ambulance Service

#### For information

Chairs, NHS Boards  
Infectious Disease Consultants  
Consultant Physicians  
Public Health Scotland  
Chief Executive, Public Health Scotland,  
NHS 24  
Community Pharmacy Scotland

### Further Enquiries

COVID-19 Policy Issues  
Scottish Government  
[ImmunisationPolicy@gov.scot](mailto:ImmunisationPolicy@gov.scot)

#### Medical Issues

Dr Lorna Willocks  
Senior Medical Officer  
St Andrew's House  
[ImmunisationPolicy@gov.scot](mailto:ImmunisationPolicy@gov.scot)

#### PGD/Pharmaceutical

Barry Melia  
Public Health Scotland  
[Barry.Melia@phs.scot](mailto:Barry.Melia@phs.scot)

#### Vaccine Supply Issues

[nss.vaccineenquiries@nhs.scot](mailto:nss.vaccineenquiries@nhs.scot)



## **Vaccines for the programme**

6. Details of the COVID-19 vaccines to be used in Spring 2025 are contained in **Annex B**. Further details can also be found in the [COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a - GOV.UK](#). National protocols and patient group directions will be provided by Public Health Scotland (PHS).

## **Clinical referral route**

7. The clinical referral route has been well established over the last three years of the COVID-19 programme and remains the same for spring 2025.
8. If an individual knows that they are eligible for vaccination this spring as part of the immunosuppressed group, or by virtue of being aged 75 years and older (up to and including 30 June 2025), but they have not been sent an appointment or prompt invitation, they can book via the [portal](#) or by calling the national vaccination helpline on 0800 030 8013.
9. If an individual thinks they may be eligible as part of the immunosuppressed group, but is unsure, they can call the helpline and they will be referred to their local Health Board to ascertain eligibility and bring them forward for vaccination, if required.
10. An individual could also consult their GP practice or secondary care clinician, who can then assess the individual and complete a referral form to refer their case through local referral pathways for vaccination. If GP practices or other clinicians are unsure of their local referral pathway, they should contact their local Immunisation team or co-ordinator for more information.
11. Guidance on the clinical definition of immunosuppression can be found in the [COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#).

## **Vaccination of stem cell transplant recipients and those anticipating immunosuppressive therapy**

10. Year-round vaccination will be made available to those who aged 6 months and over who have received a haematopoietic stem cell transplant or CAR-T therapy and who require revaccination, in accordance with the [Scottish Haematology Society Revaccination Schedule](#).
11. Individuals aged 6 months and over anticipating immunosuppressive therapy may also be eligible and should be assessed for vaccine eligibility before starting treatment. This is year round offer and referrals must be made urgently.

## **Post-vaccination observation period**

11. In late 2023 the Scottish Vaccination and Immunisation Programme's (SVIP) Clinical Governance Group met to review the post-vaccination observation period and it was agreed that this is no longer required as standard. Vaccinators must still advise patients not to drive for 15 minutes after receiving vaccination and post-vaccination observation advice must also be given to those who get vaccinated in their home.
12. Please refer to the [COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](#) for more information on observation periods for those with allergies.

## Resources

13. NES/PHS workforce education materials for vaccinators can be found at [COVID-19 vaccination programme | Turas | Learn \(nhs.scot\)](#).
14. Public information, including information to support informed consent, booking and rescheduling of appointments can be found via [www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine](http://www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine)

## The National Vaccination Helpline

15. At this time, the National Vaccination Helpline (0800 030 8013) only provides support to the COVID-19 and flu vaccination programmes. The helpline is unable to assist with, or make bookings for any other vaccination programme.
16. For assistance with routine programmes, such as RSV, shingles or pneumococcal, patients should be directed to their [local Health Board Immunisation Team](#), or should check the contact details in their appointment letters.

Finally we would like to recognise and express our sincere gratitude for your professionalism and continuing support in planning and delivering this important vaccination programme. Thank you for all your hard work over the winter period and we wish you all the best for the spring 2025 programme.

Yours sincerely,

*Gregor Smith*

*Anne Armstrong*

*Alison Strath*

Professor Sir Gregor Smith  
**Chief Medical Officer**

Anne Armstrong  
**Interim Chief Nursing  
Officer**

Professor Alison Strath  
**Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**

## **Annex A: Date of birth ranges used to derive cohorts for spring 2025**

An individual must turn 75 years of age on or before 30 June 2025.

An infant must be 6 months old by the programme start date of 31 March, therefore must have been born on or before 30 September 2024.

For specific age groups we have used the following data of birth ranges:

6 months – 4 years:	01/04/2020 – 30/09/2024
5 – 11 years:	01/04/2013 – 31/03/2020
12 – 17 years	01/04/2007 – 31/03/2013
18 – 74 years:	01/07/1950 – 31/03/2007
75 and above:	Born on or before 30 June 1950

## **Annex B: Vaccines in use in Scotland for the spring 2025 COVID-19 programme**

### **Individuals aged 18 years and over:**

- Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA (Comirnaty) Omicron JN.1 vaccine. Dose: 30 micrograms
- Moderna mRNA (Spikevax) JN.1 vaccine. Dose: 50 micrograms

### **Individuals aged 12 to 17 years:**

- Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA (Comirnaty) Omicron JN.1 vaccine. Dose: 30 micrograms

### **Individuals aged 5 to 11 years:**

- Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA (Comirnaty) Omicron JN.1 vaccine. Dose: 10 micrograms

### **Individuals aged 6 months to 4 years:**

- Pfizer-BioNTech mRNA (Comirnaty) Omicron JN.1 vaccine. Dose: 3 micrograms

### **No current availability of non-mRNA COVID-19 vaccines for Spring 2025**

Whilst it remains the Scottish Government policy position that Health Boards must make non-mRNA COVID-19 vaccines available to those individuals who are contraindicated to, or allergic to, mRNA vaccines, at the point of publication of this letter there are no non-mRNA products authorised for use in the UK by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) available for purchase. Health Boards should contact individuals affected to explain the situation.