

Date: 19 April 2021
My Ref: jon/nj/tmw/21-57
Your Ref:
Contact: Contact details set out on
Phone: page 3 of this letter
Email:

Dear Leicestershire Carer

Updated information on booking vaccinations for family carers/unpaid adult carers

We are writing to you because we believe you may be a family/unpaid carer who may meet the definition detailed below, as there has recently been an update to the way carers are asked to book their vaccination slots. Details are shown in the phased approach table overleaf. The main changes are that:

- it is no longer possible for family/unpaid carers to book their vaccination through the National Booking Service;
- those aged 29 and younger are advised to receive the Pfizer/Moderna vaccine for their first and second doses unless they have already received their first Astra Zeneca dose.

If you have already received your COVID vaccination please ignore this letter.

The Government has defined a family/unpaid carer for the purposes of vaccination as:

‘Those aged 16 years and over who are eligible for carer’s allowance, or those who are the sole or primary carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk of COVID-19 mortality and therefore clinically vulnerable’

Those clinically vulnerable to COVID include:

- children with severe neuro-disabilities;
- those who are designated clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV);
- adults who have underlying health conditions;
- those who need care because of advanced age.

Family/unpaid carers are part of cohort 6 as identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) for the COVID-19 vaccination. You may have

Adult and Communities

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Telephone: 0116 232 3232 Fax: 0116 305 7440

Contacting Adult Social Care <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/adult-social-care-and-health/assessment-and-eligibility-for-care-and-support/contact-adult-social-care>

Jon Wilson, Director of Adults and Communities

www.leicestershire.gov.uk

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already received a vaccination because you are part of cohorts 1-5 (such as if you are also a health or social care worker, or over 50 years old) - if so, please disregard the contents of this letter.

The table below sets out the phased approach:

Phase 1	How will I get my vaccine
There is a carer flag on your GP record and/or you are registered as a carer with your practice	Your GP will contact you to arrange your vaccination.
Phase 2	How will I get my vaccine
You receive/have an underlying entitlement to carers allowance.	Carers who are eligible for carers allowance will receive an invitation letter. The option to book a slot using the National Booking Service is no longer available.
Phase 3	How will I get my vaccine
You have had a statutory carers assessment or have a support plan in place with either Support for Carers or Leicester Carer Support Service The local authorities across Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland are working closely with health partners to provide these details.	Your GP will contact you to arrange your vaccination. You do not need to contact the Local Authority to register for this.
Phase 4	How will I get my vaccine
Carers that do not fall into any of the categories above but think they may fit the Government definition	Carers that do not fall into any of the categories above but think they may fit the government definition, should contact their GP practice, or book an appointment at a Hospital Hub . For more information please visit the local Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland Clinical Commissioning Group website The option to book a slot using the National Booking Service is no longer available.

If you are a family/unpaid carer aged **16** or **17**, you will need to contact your GP to arrange your vaccination as you are only able to receive the Pfizer vaccine.

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Please find attached useful information regarding the vaccine. By getting vaccinated you will be playing your part by protecting yourself and helping to protect others from catching and spreading COVID-19.

If you have any queries in relation to COVID vaccines, please contact the relevant local authority of the person you care for:

Leicester City residents:	Leicester Carer Support Service on 0116 2220538
Leicestershire County Council residents:	SocialCare-Vaccination-Enquiry@leics.gov.uk or 0116 3052535
Rutland County Council residents:	carersteam@Rutland.gov.uk or 01572 722577

Yours sincerely



Jon Wilson
Director of Adults and Communities

About the vaccine:

The vaccine cannot give you COVID-19 infection and will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill. Information about the vaccines and possible side effects is available here:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/why-vaccination-is-safe-and-important/>

Getting vaccinated only protects you from the virus, so you will still need to follow general advice when you are out and about, at home or at work:

- Practice social distancing
- Wear a face mask
- Wash your hands carefully and frequently
- Follow the current guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Before you book:

The vaccine is safe for most people but there are some groups who should not be vaccinated. Please check that you do not fall into one of these groups.

- People who have received a flu vaccination within the last seven days
- People who currently have a fever
- People with a history of a severe allergic reaction to the ingredients of the vaccine
- People who have had onset of the symptoms of covid-19 in the last four weeks and who have tested positive
- People who have tested positive for COVID-19 (regardless of symptoms) within the last four weeks.

If you do fall into any of these groups, please do not book your vaccination and check with your clinician.

Please do not attend your appointment if you are symptomatic or have had sickness or diarrhoea in the last 48 hours or have any COVID-19 or flu-like symptoms. If you cannot attend, please cancel your appointment to allow someone else to book.

Pregnancy and breastfeeding

There's no evidence the COVID-19 vaccine is unsafe if you're pregnant. But more evidence is needed before you can be routinely offered the vaccine.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has updated its advice to recommend you may be able to have the vaccine if you're pregnant and:

- at high risk of getting coronavirus because of where you work
- have a health condition that means you're at high risk of serious complications of coronavirus

You can have the COVID-19 vaccine if you are breastfeeding.

If you would like more information, speak to a healthcare professional before you have the vaccination. They will discuss the benefits and risks of the COVID-19 vaccine with you.

You do not need to avoid pregnancy after vaccination. The vaccine cannot give you or your baby COVID-19.