

# Temporary Exemption Pathway - What you need to know

By the Covid-19 Support Team

Last Updated: 15 September 2021

For the national guidance please see: [Temporary medical exemptions for COVID-19 vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes](#)

# Letters and documents from the DHSC

- ▶ [Letter on temporary exemptions process \(final\)](#)
- ▶ [Form for medical exemptions](#)
- ▶ [Form for people vaccinated abroad](#)

The letter confirms that; “On a temporary basis, from today (15 September 2021), people working or volunteering in care homes who have a medical reason why they are unable to have a COVID-19 vaccine will be able to self-certify that they meet the medical exemption criteria, using the forms attached to this letter...

Once the NHS COVID Pass system is launched, care home workers will need to apply for a formal medical exemption through that process. This temporary self-certification will expire 12 weeks after the NHS COVID Pass system is launched.”

[Vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes: operational guidance](#) will be updated shortly to include this temporary exemption pathway.

# What do managers need to know

DHSC has confirmed that:

- ▶ Temporary self certification arrangements will use the same exemption criteria as permanent arrangements - refer to Green Book and letter sent from DHSC ([Letter on temporary exemptions process](#)).
- ▶ Care providers should accept self certification and are not required to make any kind of clinical assessment (but using the existing criteria, so for example major allergic reaction is acceptable, concern that they might get a rash is not).
- ▶ Workers who have self-certification will not be required to be redeployed by 11 November but they will need to complete the formal process when it goes live within 12 weeks.
- ▶ The self certification does not need to be clinically certified.
- ▶ Anyone who has been vaccinated overseas will need to seek exemption

# Temporary Exemption Criteria

While this list is not exhaustive, examples of medical exemptions from COVID-19 vaccination could include individuals:

- ▶ Receiving end of life care where vaccination is not in the individual's interests.
- ▶ With learning disabilities or autistic individuals, or with a combination of impairments which result in the same distress, who find vaccination and testing distressing because of their condition and cannot be achieved through reasonable adjustments such as provision of an accessible environment.
- ▶ With medical contraindications to the vaccines such as severe allergy to all COVID-19 vaccines or their constituents.
- ▶ Who have had adverse reactions to the first dose (e.g. myocarditis).
- ▶ Time-limited exemptions will also be available for those with short-term medical conditions.
- ▶ Exemptions for conditions listed in section 4.4 of Summary of Product Characteristics for Covid-19 vaccinations, more details available on the next page.

# Summary of Product Characteristics:

## 4.4 Special warnings and precautions for use

- ▶ Hypersensitivity and anaphylaxis
- ▶ Myocarditis and pericarditis
- ▶ Anxiety-related reactions
- ▶ Concurrent illness
- ▶ Thrombocytopenia and coagulation disorders
- ▶ Immunocompromised individuals

For further information please see:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19/summary-of-product-characteristics-for-covid-19-vaccine-pfizerbiontech#clinical-particulars>

# Airedale Exemption Pathway

We would still recommend that care home workers follow the authorised pathway within the Bradford District by contacting the specialist team located at Airedale General Hospital. Further details on this pathway are available below:

In line with [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination of people working or deployed in care homes: operational guidance](#) released by the Government on the 04 August 2021, staff will either need to provide evidence of being fully vaccinated or medically exempt from receiving the Covid-19 vaccine.

All exemptions will be consulted and reviewed by a team at Airedale Hospital, this is to ensure all staff are assessed fairly and prevent any complications from differing views/understanding from one GP surgery to another.

Should you or your staff believe that they should receive an exemption, please contact 01535 294323, or 01535 293434, or email [anhsft.vaccination@nhs.net](mailto:anhsft.vaccination@nhs.net), stating that you, or they, require an "exemption discussion appointment".

# What happens after the temporary exemption expires

Within the exemption form, the following is stated that the care home worker will need to agree to:

“I understand that 12 weeks after the clinical review process goes live, I will be required to obtain an exemption through the clinical review medical exemptions process OR have completed a full course (likely two doses depending on the type of vaccine used) of an authorised COVID-19 vaccination to continue to be deployed in a care home after this date.”

The confirms that the agreement to this exemption is temporary and that some care home workers will, after the NHS COVID Pass system goes live, be in the same position they are currently in now. It will only delay their requirement to receive the vaccine.

Once the NHS COVID Pass system goes live, care home workers who have not started their course of Covid-19 vaccines will have four weeks to receive their first dose and begin their vaccinations.