



Department
of Health &
Social Care

CARE

Adult Social Care Delivery
Directorate
39 Victoria Street
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To:

Social Care Agencies

3 September 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Vaccination as a condition of deployment - Supporting agency staff to receive their COVID-19 vaccination before new regulations come into force

I would like to thank you for the essential contribution you make to the social care sector and your on-going support during the pandemic. Agency workers play a vital role across the system and, through being vaccinated, in protecting those they care for from COVID-19.

Following public consultation, regulations¹ will come into force on 11 November 2021 which means that only fully vaccinated staff can be deployed in a CQC-registered care home, except if medically exempt. The regulations apply to all agency workers in those settings.

The Department of Health and Social Care has published operational guidance² to assist care home managers and employers to implement the new law, which you might find helpful. Please ensure that staff are aware of the regulations and of the following key dates:

- 16 September 2021 – the latest date staff can get the first dose of a two-dose vaccine (in time to receive a second dose by 11 November)
- 11 November 2021 – the date staff must be fully vaccinated to be able to be deployed in a care home, unless medically exempt.

¹ <https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukdsi/2021/9780348224993?view=plain>

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/vaccination-of-people-working-or-deployed-in-care-homes-operational-guidance>



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You have done a fantastic job in supporting agency staff to access their COVID-19 vaccination. Nevertheless, reported vaccine uptake among agency workers in care homes is lower than uptake among directly employed staff.

I would be grateful if you could reach out to any remaining unvaccinated agency staff to discuss the incoming requirement and encourage them to book their COVID-19 vaccination at the earliest opportunity through the National Booking Service or by visiting their nearest walk-in centre³, ensuring they are aware of the potential limitations on their future deployment should they decide not to be vaccinated. The Vaccines Communications Toolkit⁴ for Adult Social Care contains useful resources to support conversations with staff and help build their confidence in the vaccine.

Thank you again for your on-going support.

Kind regards,

Claire Armstrong

Director of Adult Social Care Delivery and Covid-19 Response

³ <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>

⁴ <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/asc-comms-toolki/>