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14th January 2021

Covering letter for consent form for social care staff

Dear Frontline care worker

**COVID-19 Vaccination Front Line Social Care workers all sectors: Social Care, Health, Third and Voluntary Sectors**

I would like to inform you that we will soon be making COVID-19 vaccinations available to all front-line social care workers and would like to ask if you wish to give your consent to be vaccinated.

This vaccination will be free of charge and our highest priority is delivering the vaccines to all eligible staff as quickly as possible.

Through vaccination of our front-line social care workforce, we aim to help protect individuals from becoming unwell with, or dying from, COVID-19 disease. It will also help reduce the risk of staff spreading infection to vulnerable clients, patients and family members.

Please read the guide for social care staff which we have sent with this letter or read it online here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-a-guide-for-social-care-staff>

More information about COVID-19 vaccines is available from:

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine)

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme>

For women of childbearing age, please read the detailed guidance at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-women-of-childbearing-age-currently-pregnant-planning-a-pregnancy-or-breastfeeding>

Indications are that some vaccine recipients may experience a painful heavy arm where they had the injection and may feel tired or have a mild fever for a couple of days. These are common side effects following vaccination. If required paracetamol may help to reduce these effects and keep you as comfortable as possible following vaccination. Please read the product information for more details on the vaccine and possible side effects by searching Coronavirus Yellow Card. You can also report suspected side effects on the same website or by downloading the Yellow Card app.

During the vaccination delivery we will maintain the range of measures we have in place to keep our staff safe from COVID-19. Staff giving the vaccine will be wearing personal protective equipment and will abide by all our cleaning and disinfection requirements. Please note two doses of the vaccine are required 3-12 weeks apart.

To progress vaccinations as quickly as possible, your employer and/or the local authority will work to determine the right location for you to receive your vaccination.

The NHS is rapidly expanding the number of sites across the country where vaccinations can be given. This includes hospital hubs where block bookings can allow large numbers of frontline social care workers to rapidly access vaccinations. It also includes local vaccinations services at GP practices and community pharmacies; with more service due to open as the rollout of the programme progresses.

**What happens next?**

Your employer is providing a notice of eligibility from the Local Authority and local NHS Vaccination Programme, which is proof of your eligibility for vaccination, in line with the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations (JCVI) priorities for front line social care workers.

**You need your notice of eligibility for vaccination from the Local Authority which your employer will provide. You must take a physical copy of your notice of eligibility to show at the vaccination appointment.**

**When you attend for your vaccination, you will need your work identity badge or another form of photo ID.**

**When you attend for your vaccination you may be able to give verbal consent. Some vaccination service providers are requiring written consent before you attend the vaccination session.**

**If your employer or the vaccination service provider has issued you a consent form please complete it and return it to them.**

Where your employer is arranging block bookings for vaccinations you can be part of this process. Alternatively, you can take steps to book your own appointment with local vaccination services through the GP/ practice where you are registered or soon at community pharmacies. The local authority and your employer are providing information on local vaccination sites and how you can access them.

If you need help or have concerns about accessing a vaccination appointment you should speak to your employer in the first instance. There are no walk-in vaccination appointments being offered. You **must** have a booked appointment for vaccination arranged by your employer, or directly by yourself. Please confirm your intention to attend for vaccination with your employer immediately.

By consenting you will be playing your part by protecting yourself and helping to protect patients, clients and staff from catching and spreading COVID-19.

Best wishes,

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| **Mary Ramsay**Consultant Epidemiologist and Head ofImmunisation, Public Health England | **Dr Jonathan Leach OBE**NHS England Medical Director for COVID-19 ImmunisationNHS England Associate Medical Director for Armed Forces and Veterans HealthJoint Honorary Secretary Royal College of General PractitionersGeneral Practitioner Davenal House Surgery Bromsgrove |