



# Infection Prevention and Control Resource for Adult Social Care

## 6. Vaccinations for care and support workers and individuals receiving care and support

Vaccination is a key part of preventing infections, including many respiratory illnesses. Staying up to date with recommended vaccines, including boosters and seasonal doses, helps reduce the risk and severity of infection.

Vaccines protect both care and support workers and the individuals that they support. Therefore, care and support workers, and individuals receiving care, are encouraged to receive vaccinations that they are eligible for.

Under the [Health and Social Care Act 2008](#), health and care professionals have a statutory obligation to protect individuals, promote public health, and provide safe, high-quality care.

Adult social care (ASC) providers should carry out risk assessments to keep individuals safe, and protected wherever possible through vaccination. The latest information on vaccines and vaccination procedures for vaccine preventable infectious diseases in the UK can be found on this [Immunisation](#) page.

More information on the [Annual flu programme](#) is available.

21 More information, specifically on [how care homes can manage vaccines](#) is available on the  
22 Care Quality Commission (CQC) website.

## 23 **Safeguarding statement**

24 In keeping with the Mental Capacity Act 2005, care and support workers must presume  
25 capacity unless assessed otherwise, provide tailored support to enable understanding, and  
26 document any capacity assessments clearly. Where a person lacks capacity, decisions or  
27 protective measures must be made in their best interests and be proportionate, necessary,  
28 and least restrictive, with involvement from relevant professionals and those close to the  
29 individual wherever appropriate.

30 Always ensure any information sharing about an infectious individual is done so in a  
31 compassionate but proportionate way.

## 32 **Identifying those who need vaccines**

33 Individual's medical records or GP will be able to identify which vaccines they need to  
34 prevent specific infections.

35 Vaccinate individuals with a medical condition that increases infection risk as a priority.

36 A GP or other healthcare provider will always seek [consent](#) before vaccination. A best  
37 interest decision may be needed in accordance with the [Mental Capacity Act 2005](#) where  
38 an individual lacks capacity. There is advice on [consent to vaccination in the Green Book](#).

39 The date and time of acceptance and administration, or refusal of the vaccine (with  
40 reason), should also be recorded in the social care record.

## 41 **Vaccinations for individuals receiving care and** 42 **support**

43 ASC providers, working in collaboration with Primary Care Networks and GPs, should  
44 support and enable individuals to stay up to date with vaccinations in line with the [UK](#)  
45 [national immunisation schedule](#). Follow the [Green Book of immunisation](#), including any  
46 requirements for additional doses where indicated.

47 The responsibility for offering and delivering vaccinations rests with the NHS; ASC  
48 providers contribute by facilitating access, sharing relevant information, and helping  
49 individuals to receive or attend for vaccination as needed.

50 Vaccine status should be reviewed regularly as part of proactive care planning.

51 The [NHS vaccinations website](#) summarises what vaccines are available for adults and  
52 which groups of people would benefit from having them. Adult vaccinations relevant for  
53 individuals accessing care and support include:

- 54 • pneumococcal vaccine
- 55 • flu vaccine
- 56 • RSV vaccine
- 57 • COVID-19 vaccine (usually given in spring and winter)
- 58 • [shingles vaccine](#) when eligible
- 59 • Hepatitis B, including boosters (especially for those with learning disabilities in  
60 supported living or residential care)

61 Always check the [NHS vaccinations website](#) as vaccinations have different age eligibility  
62 parameters and this will be have the most up-to-date information for eligibility.

## 63 **Vaccinations for care and support workers**

64 Vaccinations for care and support workers are strongly recommended (although not  
65 mandatory) because they:

- 66 • reduce the spread of preventable diseases
- 67 • reduce the severity of infectious diseases
- 68 • reduce hospital admissions and can prevent deaths
- 69 • keep care and support workers healthy, preventing staff shortages, service disruption,  
70 and sick leave

71 It is the responsibility of the employer to offer vaccines that are required to reduce staff  
72 members' work-related risks. Recommendations on vaccines for health and care workers  
73 can be found in [chapter 12 of the Green Book](#). Currently these vaccines include:

- 74 • [Hepatitis B vaccine](#)
- 75 • [Flu vaccine](#)
- 76 • [COVID-19 vaccine](#)

77 Provision of vaccination for occupational health purposes is an employer responsibility.

78 Where a care provider is not able to offer flu vaccination these can be accessed via GP or  
79 pharmacy by [showing evidence of employment](#) as a care and support worker.

80  
81 All care and support workers are expected and encouraged to have routine vaccination in  
82 line with the wider population. They should access these through their GP. This  
83 expectation is consistent with the recommendations for the general population.

## 84 **Actions for care and support workers**

85 Care and support workers can support vaccination uptake by:

- 86 • participating in annual campaigns (UKHSA/NHS)
- 87 • promoting uptake within your care setting
- 88 • accepting vaccination offers where eligible
- 89 • encouraging individuals and their families to access vaccination services
- 90 • before international travel, check official [guidance](#) for recommended vaccinations and  
91 ensure these are obtained prior to departure