

**Questions from the Community during Session COVID-19 Session 11th
January 2021**

Questions	Answers
<p>"If they are carers or in receipt of carers allowance, they should ensure they are registered with their GP and they will be contacted when it is their turn to be vaccinated (carers will be vaccinated with the 70+ & Clinically extremely vulnerable cohorts)."</p> <p>We are receiving many calls and emails from carers whose GP surgeries are telling them this is not true, some say the carer needs to get letters from NHS England to confirm they are a carer (not actually an option). Some say they need proof of a kind, and we are very happy to provide letters, if that is allowed.</p> <p>Is it possible to have any guidance, please?</p>	<p>Thank you for your query. The pandemic response is an ever-changing situation, meaning that national guidance also changes frequently. The latest advice on vaccination priority groups was published by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on 30/12/20 and updated on 6/1/21. This guidance recommends that carers who are in receipt of Carer's Allowance or are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer contracted COVID should be included in priority group 6 alongside people with underlying conditions, as specified in footnote 3 of the document linked below:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-advice-on-priority-groups-for-covid-19-vaccination-30-december-2020</p> <p>When it comes to "registering" oneself as a carer, unfortunately the process for this may vary between GP surgeries. We recommend carers contact their own GP, ideally electronically if possible, to ensure that their status as a carer is documented on their patient record. If they are asked for "proof" one option would be to demonstrate that</p>

	<p>they are in receipt of Welfare Allowance. If this is not the case, we would be very happy for you to provide letters as needed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Further advice for carers can be found on the Carers UK website:</p> <p>https://www.carersuk.org/help-and-advice/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-vaccine-faqs</p>
<p>1) With multiple vaccination centres being opened, and three different vaccines, can the public be assured of continuity of care through one centre to guarantee that the two doses are given of the same vaccine (I presume this is a requisite).</p>	<p>Thank you for your query. The latest guidance on the vaccination programme was published by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on 30/12/20 and updated on 6/1/21. The full document can be found at the link below:</p> <p>https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-advice-on-priority-groups-for-covid-19-vaccination-30-december-2020</p> <p>The section entitled "Vaccine Schedule," states "<i>JCVI advises that the second vaccine dose should be with the same vaccine as for the first dose. Switching between vaccines or missing the second dose is not advised as this may affect the duration of protection.</i>"</p> <p>In practical terms, all individuals receiving a vaccination will be registered at the centre they receive it and join a list to be recalled to the same</p>

	<p>centre for the second dose of the same vaccine. This means that each vaccination centre will take responsibility for offering continuity of care to the patients vaccinated there.</p>
<p>2) What provision is being made to vaccinate those who, through physical or mental difficulty, are unable to visit a centre.</p>	<p>Thank you for your query. For all patients who are housebound, vaccination will be offered via their GP, as part of a community vaccination programme which is being rolled out alongside the programme delivered through hospital hubs. For this reason, it is imperative that all individuals wishing to be vaccinated are registered with a GP and, if they are unable to visit the GP practice, they must ensure this is documented in their medical record.</p> <p>Further, detailed information about the provision of Covid-19 vaccination to the housebound population can be found in Appendix E of the document linked below:</p> <p>https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2020/12/C1038-COVID-19-Vaccine-Deployment-in-Community-Settings-LVS-SOP-v3.2-14-January-2021.pdf</p>
<p>What about someone who is not registered with a GP?</p>	<p>Thank you for your query. As a large proportion of the vaccination programme will be coordinated by GPs, it is essential that all individuals wishing to be vaccinated must be registered with a GP and ensure that their contact details are up to date.</p>

	<p>Information about finding and registering with a GP can be found at the link below:</p> <p>https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/</p>
<p>How will the GP contact patients i.e. letter or phone msg?</p>	<p>Thank you for your query. Members of the public will be invited for vaccination directly by their own GP practice. This means that the contact method may vary from one practice to another. Many practices are making use of modern technology to contact lots of patients at once, by sending a text message link to book vaccination online. However, this is not available to all GPs and some may instead contact patients via letter or telephone call. For this reason, it is imperative that members of the public ensure their contact details are up to date on their GP record. In many instances, this can be done electronically, as your GP surgery and phone lines are likely to be very busy.</p>
<p>I wanted to ask about guidance around people who have had Covid and come through it - is it safe for post-Covid people to meet up, can they still spread the virus even after testing negative and no longer having symptoms for example. I haven't seen anything about this in the press and with infection rates having risen sharply since before Christmas in London and the South East, now showing 1 in 30 have the virus, I'd like to know what happens next for</p>	<p>Thank you for your query. While there is some early evidence that having Covid may make you less likely to contract it a second time, reinfection is still possible and it is certainly still possible for those who have recovered from the infection to play a role in transmitting it to others.</p> <p>When someone contracts the infection, they are likely to remain infectious for a period of 10 days. This is why those who test positive and their recent contacts are advised to isolate for a period of 10 days. After those 10 days,</p>

<p>these people and those around them.</p>	<p>they no longer have to isolate as they are assumed to have cleared the virus in this time. However, it is still essential that they continue to follow the standard guidelines that are in place for everyone, regarding social distancing, wearing masks, hand washing and household mixing. While the person who has recovered from covid is no longer directly infectious, they still have a role to play in preventing transmission of the virus between other members of the public.</p>
<p>I attended an NHS webinar yesterday delivered by the JCVI. It was super interesting and attended by 5000+! It made very clear reference as to who would be considered eligible for the Cohort 2 priority groups of which Homeless workers were included.</p> <p>That said, it was clear that the JCVI had outsourced this to individual LA's as they would understand the local provision and pressure.</p> <p>It was advised that if we hadn't had an invitation letter as yet from PHE as to whether we are included, to contact the Director of Social Services – not sure that's relevant in this case, but if someone wants to give me a signpost as to who to contact for further info I'd be much obliged.</p> <p>It may be that you guys are</p>	<p>Since this question has been submitted we (Kingston Council) have been in contact and frontline staff that work with homeless people have been referred for vaccination as per the latest SOP Guidance around the expanded social care workforce. We look forward to continuing to work with you on the wider vaccination programme.</p> <p>https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/01/C1037-COVID-vacc-deployment-SOP_community-based-care-workers-14-January-2021.pdf</p>

<p>the gateway to all the updates?</p>	
<p>I wondered if you could help me? I am working with colleagues to identify how to access lateral flow tests for asymptomatic staff and volunteers across London.</p> <p>Most boroughs have information on the local authority websites about how to book the rapid test for people without Covid symptoms , but I understand Kingston is offering these tests just to critical workers in the borough, and they were being invited by letter.</p> <p>As a pan London service, offering support and accommodation to young people facing homelessness across London including Kingston, I wondered if you knew how we could be added to the list to receive the letter?</p>	<p>Any person whose role means they cannot work from home, is invited to attend for rapid result COVID-19 testing at one of our Community Testing Hubs. We know around 1-in-3 people who are positive for coronavirus are asymptomatic, which means they do not show any symptoms. Regular twice-weekly testing, ideally 3-4 days apart and no more than 7 days apart, helps detect the virus early, and is particularly useful when people have the virus but no symptoms and are potentially unknowingly spreading it to others as they go about their daily lives.</p> <p>This testing is for anyone who doesn't have coronavirus symptoms. The test involves you taking a swab from the back of your throat and one nostril, it takes about 10 minutes in total and provides a result using a Lateral Flow Device (LFD) in 30 minutes. There will be a Test Assistant present to offer advice and support and guide you through how to take the test.</p> <p><i>Rapid result testing for people in the front-line at the Community Testing Hubs:</i></p> <p>Tests can be booked at any of our community hubs, with some sites offering weekend and early morning or evening weekday slots, to enable as much flexibility as possible.</p>

- Kingston University, Main Building, Penrhyn Road, Kingston upon Thames Surrey KT1 2EE (including weekend)
- Chessington Sports Centre, Garrison Lane, Chessington, KT9 2JS (including early morning or evening slots)
- Richard Challoner School, Manor Drive, New Malden KT3 5PE
- Kingston Academy School, Richmond Rd, Kingston upon Thames KT2 5PE

Please book your test day and time here: [Rapid test booking and consent form](#)

Whilst a negative result is a helpful indicator of whether someone has the virus or not (the test detects about 70% of positive cases), all day-to-day COVID-19 prevention measures at home and at work, including the use of PPE associated with your role, still need to be followed after a negative test result.

If you or any members of your household receive a positive COVID-19 result from this test you will need to have a confirmatory PCR test and you must self-isolate for 10 days from the date of the test. Your household and support bubble will also need to self-isolate immediately along with you. There is help available if needed, for things like shopping and medicine collection, if you don't have a nearby

	<p>friend or trusted neighbours. Please see: https://www.kingston.gov.uk/Covid19-ne edhelp or call: 020 8547 5000.</p> <p>If you or anyone in your household does have coronavirus symptoms (a high temperature, new, continuous cough, loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) then you should self isolate and book a test through the standard COVID-19 test booking site: www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or by calling 119, and follow advice of NHS Test and Trace.</p> <p>Please continue to follow national guidance on preventing the spread of coronavirus, remember Hands, Face, Space, and play your part to help Keep Kingston Safe.</p>
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