



Department
of Health &
Social Care

CARE

Adult Social Care Delivery
Directorate
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To:
Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Adult Social Services
Integrated Care Board Chief Executives

5 October 2022

COVID-19 Autumn Booster and Flu Vaccines for Carers

Dear Colleagues,

As you will be aware, the COVID-19 Autumn Booster and flu vaccine programmes have now begun. This year, anyone aged 16 and over who receives carer's allowance, or who is the main carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk from flu or COVID-19, is eligible for both vaccines. This includes people who provide unpaid care, for example as a family member, close friend or neighbour.

It is hugely important that all those who are eligible, especially unpaid carers, take up the offer of both the COVID-19 booster and flu vaccines as soon as possible this season and help protect themselves and those around them. The risk of COVID-19 and flu remains significant and vaccines remain our best defence against them.

Carers who are known to GPs and who have a 'carer's flag' on their primary care record will receive invitations to book both their COVID-19 booster and flu vaccines as soon as they are eligible. Carers can also self-declare and book their COVID-19 booster vaccination via the [National Booking Service](#), by calling 119, or by finding a walk-in appointment through the online [vaccination walk-in finder](#), and should approach their GP or pharmacy for further information about how to access the flu vaccine. There is no requirement to provide proof that a person is a carer when attending vaccination appointments.

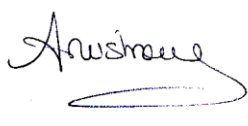
Many carers however, including those who have newly taken on caring responsibilities, may not be known to their GPs or Local Authority. We are therefore writing to request your support in taking steps, alongside NHS partners, carers' organisations, and other relevant partners, to encourage and support all carers in your local area who will be eligible for a vaccination, especially those who are unpaid, to take them up as soon as possible. As part of this you may wish to encourage carers to approach their GP to record their status on their primary care

record. This will provide a sustainable approach for identifying carers for any future vaccinations.

Further [information about the COVID-19 autumn booster](#) is available online, and separate [flu vaccination guidance](#) for social care workers and carers has also been published.

Thank you once again for your continued support in promoting both the COVID-19 booster and flu vaccinations.

Kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Armstrong', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right. A vertical line is positioned to the right of the signature.

Claire Armstrong,
Director of Adult Social Care Delivery and COVID-19 Response
Department of Health and Social Care