

# COVID-19 vaccination of people working or volunteering in care homes



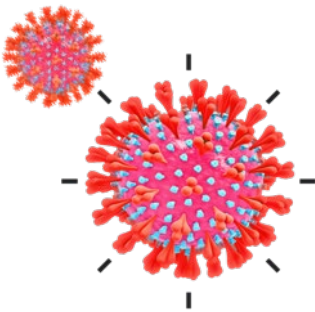
**Easy read information**

# Who we are and what we do



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

We are the **Department of Health and Social Care**. We help the NHS to work well and give good care to patients.



The COVID-19 virus made many people sick. We helped the NHS to cope with the virus.

It is easy for people who live in care homes to get ill with COVID-19.



Staff in care homes work very hard to keep people safe. We want staff to carry on doing this.



The best way to keep people safe is by having a **vaccine**. A **vaccine** is a medication that can stop you getting very ill with COVID-19.

# What this booklet is about



We want all workers who go into care homes to have a vaccination.

All workers need to be fully vaccinated. This means they have had all the doses of medication they need.



This booklet tells you about the new rules for care workers.

It also tells you how to get your vaccination.

You can [book a vaccination](#) online.



or you can call this number to book

**119**

or



You can [visit a walk-in centre](#) to get your vaccine too.

# Covid vaccination in care homes



The government has passed a new law.

The law says all care home staff should be vaccinated, unless they are **exempt**.



Being **exempt** means you have a medical condition that stops you getting the vaccine.

All staff should be fully vaccinated. Staff may not be able to work if they haven't had the vaccine.



From **22 July 2021**, care home staff have **16 weeks** to get vaccinated.

Staff must have their 1<sup>st</sup> dose by **16 September 2021**.



This will give staff time to get a 2<sup>nd</sup> dose by **11 November 2021**.

The new law starts on **11 November 2021**. This means staff can only go into a care home if they are vaccinated.

# Rules we follow



The rules say you **can** go into a care home if

- ✓ You live there
- ✓ You are fully vaccinated
- ✓ You are **exempt** due to a medical condition
- ✓ You are providing help in an emergency. This includes police, fire and ambulance workers
- ✓ You are fixing something like a water leak
- ✓ You are a friend, relative or carer to someone who lives in the care home
- ✓ You are visiting someone in the care home who is dying
- ✓ You are comforting someone whose loved one has died
- ✓ You are under the age of 18. Make sure you book your vaccine 8 weeks before your 18<sup>th</sup> birthday.



# Rules we follow



One person in the care home must make sure that workers follow the rules. They are called **the registered person**. They should

- ✓ Check everyone who goes into the care home is vaccinated or exempt.
- ✓ Send reports to the **Care and Quality Commission (CQC)**. The CQC check that care homes keep people safe.



## Rules for residents



People who live in a care home are called **residents**. Residents, their families and friends **do not** need to show they are vaccinated.

But you should be vaccinated if you want to visit the care home before moving there. If you are not vaccinated, you can look at the home by video link.



We advise all residents to get vaccinated, unless they are exempt.



# Rules we follow



You should not go into a care home if you have not had the vaccine. People who have to be vaccinated or are exempt if they go inside a care home include

- × Funeral directors and staff
- × Students over 18 come into the home to learn new skills
- × Volunteers
- × Staff who work outside of the care home
- × A person coming for a job interview. They will only get the job if they are vaccinated
- × Postal and delivery workers who want to make a drop-off or collection **inside** the home.



## People who work in England

- ✓ You must follow the rules if you **work** in England
- ✓ You must still follow the rules even if you **live** in Scotland or Wales.

# How to show someone has had the vaccine



To go into a care home, you must show you have had your full vaccination. Your vaccination appointment card **cannot** be used to show this.



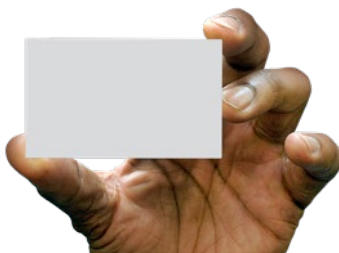
You can show you have had your vaccination in 3 ways.

1. The [NHS App](#) shows the details of everyone who is vaccinated.



2. The NHS Website also shows the details of everyone who is vaccinated.

3. You can show you are vaccinated by showing a document called an [NHS COVID Pass](#).





# How to show someone has had the vaccine



You can ask for an NHS COVID Pass letter to be sent to you in post.

You can take the letter to a care home to show you are vaccinated.

You can [ask for a letter](#) by going online.



If you got your vaccination in England, you can also get a letter by calling

**119**

You need to have an NHS number to get a letter.

[Show you were vaccinated in Scotland](#)



[Show you were vaccinated in Wales](#)



We are writing information for people vaccinated abroad. We will put this on our website.

# Who doesn't need to have a vaccine?



Some people may have a medical condition that means they cannot have the vaccine. We call this being **exempt**.



We will write advice for people who are exempt. We will put this on our website.



You may still be able to work in a care home if you are exempt.

You may need to change the way that you work and the things that you do. This is to keep you and other people safe.



Your manager will tell you if you can still work safely.

# Visitors



People who carry out services in the home need to be vaccinated or exempt. They should be told this before they visit.



The registered person will check if visitors are vaccinated or exempt. They will decide the best way to check people.

Only visitors who go **into** the care home need to be checked. The registered person will decide where in the care home they will check visitors.



A vaccination appointment card **cannot** be used to show if a person is vaccinated.

The registered person should write the date they made the check. They should do this for staff and for visitors.



Visitors only need to be checked once.

# Rights for staff



Care homes must look after your vaccination information carefully.

They must follow 2 rules called

- The **Data Protection Act**
- The **General Data Protection Regulation** or **GDPR** for short.



The CQC will make sure all the rules are followed.

After **11 November 2021** you need to be vaccinated or exempt to work in a care home.

Speak to your manager if you cannot show that you are vaccinated or exempt.

Your manager will try to find you other work for you to do.

You may have to leave your job if your manager can not do this.



# Support



## Support for care homes

Tell your local authority if you have problems finding staff to work in your care home. You should also tell the CQC.



Find out [how to test if someone has COVID-19](#).

## Support for staff

Wearing **Personal Protective Equipment**, or **PPE** for short, keeps you and other people safe.



If you cannot work because of COVID-19, find out [how to get sick pay](#).

Speak to your manager if you are worried about getting the vaccination.



Find [how to get a COVID-19 vaccination](#)

# Further information



## Information for local authorities

From **11 November 2021** workers can only go into a care home if they can



- ✓ Show they are vaccinated
- ✓ Show they are exempt because of a medical condition.

Local authorities must follow the same rules as care homes because they



- Also run care homes
- Employ people who visit care homes to provide a service.

Local authorities should work with care homes to help people get the vaccine.

This includes people who are worried about having the vaccine.



NHS: Please call us to book a Covid-19 vaccine appointment



# Further information



## Information for residents, their friends and relatives

From **11 November 2021** only people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can go into a care home.

The [new policy](#) does not apply to family and friends of care home residents.



The policy does apply to workers who go into the care home to provide a service like hairdressers.



Staff will need to show they are vaccinated or exempt. If they are not they may need to start doing new work.

Staff have 16 weeks to get vaccinated. This should mean there will not be a staff shortage.



Talk to your care home manager if you are worried about any part of the new policy.

# Further information



## Information for visitors

From **11 November 2021**, only people fully vaccinated against COVID-19 can work in a care home.

You may need to enter a care home for work if you are



- ✓ A public servant like healthcare or social care workers
- ✓ A person delivering non-care services like hairdressing
- ✓ An apprentice aged under 18.



The care home manager will decide who can enter the care home in an emergency.

You **do not** have to show you are vaccinated or exempt if you work **outside** the care home.



Please [read our new policy](#).

Please [check the PPE rules](#).