

COVID-19 Vaccination for HEEYH Doctors and Dentists in Training Frequently Asked Questions January 2021

Many healthcare workers have had questions about COVID-19 vaccines. We have provided some answers below to questions asked most frequently. We are grateful to HEE North West for sharing the questions they received during a recent Webinar and for the answers they provided.

Doctors and dentists in training including those employed by a Lead/Scheme Employer Trust in HEEYH, should be included in their host organisations' C19 vaccine programme as well as testing (including lateral flow) programmes.

General information on COVID-19 vaccines, dosing and availability in hub sites

- 1. Can you guarantee that everyone who received the first Pfizer vaccine dose will be able to receive the second Pfizer dose in the current hospital they are based in?**

If you have rotated between hospitals, you may need to return to the centre where you received the first dose or ask a nearby local hub.

- 2. Will the second dose always have to be given in the same centre as the first?**

The second dose will *usually* be in the same centre as the first but there will be exceptions. Doctors and dentists in training who have rotated between trusts would be exceptions, if returning to the first site would be logistically difficult. If they contact their local placement provider or vaccine hub they will be able to advise. ***Please note this is different from the advice we had previously provided.***

- 3. For those of us with a preference for one COVID-19 vaccine brand, will we be able to check if this is available?**

You would have to explore that when contacted by your local COVID-19 vaccination hub.

- 4. Where was it agreed that trusts would choose to vaccinate their own staff first?**

Some hospital hubs vaccinated their own staff first to get as many people through as possible while setting up booking systems. Hospital Hubs have now been tasked to vaccinate all health and care workers, and prioritisation is being guided by the "Green Book".

- 5. How long should you wait to get the vaccine if you had recent COVID-19 infection?**

Staff who have had COVID-19 infection should still be vaccinated. They are currently advised to wait for 4 weeks after the date of symptom onset.

- 6. It is being reported that having the vaccine neither protects you from catching the virus nor from passing it on to others, merely that it reduces illness severity and symptomatic disease. Is this correct?**

The COVID-19 studies published to date have only looked at protection against symptomatic infection. There is no data as yet on whether the COVID-19 vaccines reduce transmission but hopefully this will eventually be demonstrated.

7. Is the COVID vaccination mandatory for all trainees?

COVID vaccination is voluntary and requires individual consent. This applies to all healthcare workers including doctors and dentists in training. However, we would strongly recommend all those who do not have a contraindication to the vaccine to receive it to protect them from infection.

8. Given that the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine trial participants received the second dose at 21 days, how do we know that a single dose provides adequate protection?

See the [JCVI statement](#)

9. Please can you explain how trainees in small host settings and non-healthcare settings (e.g., palliative care, public health and others) will be vaccinated?

Vaccination hubs have been briefed to expect requests for booking from people not directly employed by them such as GP and dental practices, hospices, charities, public health & local authorities.

10. Trainees in GP practices - are they to be vaccinated in primary care or should they go to hospital?

Currently (as with 'flu) we have been vaccinating our own trainees. If there is capacity to vaccinate trainees in the hub or practice where they are working that is permissible. Alternatively, they can book into the local vaccine hub. The register is national so it will be picked up that the first dose has been given irrespective of the location.

11. What are the plans to ensure occupational health review for doctors and dentists in training who are clinically extremely vulnerable (ie. shielding at present) and who have been vaccinated?

At present the guidance is that vaccination does not change one's risk status. Therefore, those who are classed as clinically extremely vulnerable will need to continue to shield.

12. How will vaccination hubs know which doctors and dentists in training are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) or clinically vulnerable (CV) to prioritise them for vaccination?

CEV and CV doctors and dentists in training should have been identified during local risk assessments. The employing organisation should also hold this information.

13. How can we get involved in vaccinating?

We realise many of you may wish to help support the vaccine delivery programmes. At this time there is no single route to volunteer for this and you will have to approach the vaccination leads for your local placement hubs either in your hospital or PCN area. Alternatively, please visit: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/join-the-nhs-covid-19-vaccine-team/#i-am-currently-working-in-the-nhs>

Maternity & OOP

- 1. For those of us on maternity leave - should we wait until shortly before returning to work to arrange an appointment or should we be trying to get our dose now whilst everyone else is?**

We would suggest you make contact with your local vaccination hub a couple of months before your scheduled return date.

- 2. Will we be able to access vaccine while off on maternity leave to enable us to do keeping in touch days?**

Recent national guidance has been given to advise trusts to expect requests from health care staff in this group. If you need to be vaccinated due to entering clinical environments during keeping in touch days you should contact your local vaccine hub.

- 3. We have heard that some pregnant staff have been unable to access vaccines when they contacted their local trust in December. What should they do?**

New guidance was issued to hospital hubs on 7th January, so those declined vaccination previously should contact their local hospital hub again.

- 4. How do trainees who are out of programme obtain a vaccine?**

Recent national guidance has been given to advise trusts to expect requests from health care staff in this group. If you need to be vaccinated due to entering clinical environments, you should contact your local vaccine hub.