

24 December 2020

## COVID-19 Vaccine Prioritisation

As vaccine supply increases, we will work our way through the priority list set by the JCVI with the aim of completing this by the end of spring 2021.

1. residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. all those 75 years of age and over
4. all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. all those 65 years of age and over
6. all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. all those 60 years of age and over
8. all those 55 years of age and over
9. all those 50 years of age and over

The JCVI estimate that, taken together, these groups represent around 99% of preventable mortality from COVID-19.

JCVI advises that implementation of the COVID-19 vaccine programme should aim to achieve high vaccine uptake. Implementation should also involve flexibility in vaccine deployment at a local level with due attention to:

- mitigating health inequalities, such as might occur in relation to access to healthcare and ethnicity;
- vaccine product storage, transport and administration constraints;
- exceptional individualised circumstances;
- availability of suitable approved vaccines, for example for specific age cohorts.

The JCVI acknowledges that operational considerations, such as minimising wastage, may require a flexible approach, where decisions are taken in consultation with national or local public health experts.

The JCVI advise that frontline health and social care workers at high risk of acquiring infection, at high individual risk of developing serious disease, or at risk of transmitting infection to multiple vulnerable persons or other staff in a healthcare environment, are considered of higher priority for vaccination than those at lower risk.

Based on the JCVI priority list and the guidance in the Green Book ([COVID-19 Greenbook Chapter 14a \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-greenbook)) the Scottish Ministers have agreed to the following list which provides more detail around the cohorts.

JCVI Priority	Group
1	<b>Residents and workers in care homes for older people.</b> Residents and those working in long-stay residential and nursing care homes or other long-stay care facilities for older adults where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality. This includes non-clinical ancillary staff who may have social contact with resident but are not directly involved in patient care, such as cleaners and kitchen staff.
2	<b>all those 80 years of age and over</b> Starting for logistical reasons with long-term hospital inpatients who are over 80.
2	<b>Patient facing, frontline healthcare workers.</b> Staff who have frequent face-to-face clinical contact with patients and who are directly involved in patient care in either secondary or primary care/community settings. This includes doctors, dentists, midwives and nurses, vaccinators, paramedics and ambulance drivers, pharmacists, optometrists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, radiographers and any associated support staff of independent contractors. It should include those working in public, private, third sector and non-standard healthcare settings such as hospices, and community-based mental health or addiction services. It should include Healthcare Improvement Scotland inspectors who are required to visit premises. Temporary staff, including those working in the COVID-19 vaccination programme, students, trainees and volunteers who are working with patients must also be included.
2	<b>Non-clinical but patient facing staff in secondary or primary care/community healthcare settings.</b> This includes non-clinical ancillary staff who may have social contact with patients but are not directly involved in patient care. This group includes receptionists, ward clerks, porters and cleaners.
2	<b>Laboratory and pathology staff</b> Hospital-based laboratory and mortuary staff who frequently handle SARS-CoV-2 or collect or handle potentially infected specimens, including respiratory, gastrointestinal and blood specimens should be eligible as they may also have social contact with patients. This may also include cleaners, porters, secretaries and receptionists in laboratories. Frontline funeral operatives and mortuary technicians / embalmers are both at risk of exposure and likely to spend a considerable amount of time in care homes and hospital settings where they may also expose multiple patients. However, not included here are staff working in non-hospital-based laboratory and those academic or commercial research laboratories who handle clinical specimens or potentially infected samples as they will be able to use effective protective equipment in their work and should be at low risk of exposure.

<b>2</b>	<b>Social care staff directly involved in the care of their service users and others involved directly in delivering social care such that they and vulnerable patients/clients are at increased risk of exposure</b> This includes, for example, workers in residential care for adults and children, supported housing, and also personal assistants and social workers who have face-to-face contact in the course of their duties including child, adult, mental health officer duties and public protection. It should include Care Inspectorate staff who are required to visit care homes and other registered services. Young people age 16-18 years, who are employed in, studying or in training for health and social care work should be offered vaccination alongside their colleagues if a suitable vaccine is available.
<b>3</b>	<b>all those 75 years of age and over</b>
<b>4</b>	<b>all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals</b>
<b>5</b>	<b>all those 65 years of age and over</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality</b>
<b>6</b>	<b>Unpaid carers, including all adult carers and young carers aged 16 to 18</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>all those 60 years of age and over</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>all those 55 years of age and over</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>all those 50 years of age and over</b>

Yours sincerely

*Gregor Smith*

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