

Most vulnerable could be offered booster COVID-19 vaccines from September

- The UK welcomes JCVI interim advice on who to prioritise for a third dose
- Pending further data and final advice, millions may be offered booster vaccine from September

Millions of people most vulnerable to COVID-19 may be offered a booster vaccination from September to ensure the protection they have from first and second doses is maintained ahead of the winter and against new variants, following interim advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

The JCVI's interim advice is to plan to offer COVID-19 booster vaccines from September 2021, in order to prolong the protection that vaccines provide in those who are most vulnerable to serious COVID-19 ahead of the winter months. The 2-stage programme would take place alongside the annual flu vaccination programme. Further details of the flu vaccination programme will be set out in due course.

The final JCVI advice will be published before September and will take into account the latest epidemiological situation, additional scientific data from trials such as Cov-Boost, real-time surveillance of the effectiveness of the vaccines over time and emerging variants. The final advice could change from the interim advice as further data is analysed.

The government is working closely with the NHS to ensure that if a booster programme happens it can be deployed rapidly from September. Further details will be set out in due course.

Health and Social Care Secretary, Sajid Javid said:

The phenomenal vaccine rollout has already saved tens of thousands of lives and prevented millions of infections, helping to wrestle back control of the pandemic and ease lockdown restrictions so we can return to normal as soon as possible.

We welcome this interim advice, which will help us ensure we are ready in our preparations for autumn. We look forward to receiving the committee's final advice in due course.

We need to learn to live with this virus. Our first COVID-19 vaccination programme is restoring freedom in this country, and our booster programme will protect this freedom. We are working with the NHS to make sure we can rapidly deliver this programme to maintain protection for people in the winter months.

Dependent on final advice, the booster programme will be designed to protect as many vulnerable people as possible from becoming seriously ill due to COVID-19 over the winter period.

COVID-19 vaccines provide very strong protection against serious illness. There is good evidence that 2 doses of any COVID-19 vaccine used in the UK will provide strong protection against severe disease for at least 6 months for the majority, and there is some evidence that longer lasting protection may be afforded to some. As is common with flu, winter will lead to rising cases and further pressure on the NHS. The JCVI's interim position on booster vaccinations is to ensure the protection that has been built up in the population does not decline through the winter months, and that immunity is maximised to provide additional resilience against variants.

As most younger adults will receive their second COVID-19 vaccine dose in late summer, the benefits of booster vaccination in this group will be considered by the JCVI at a later time when more information is available.

Vaccines minister, Nadhim Zahawi said:

Our COVID-19 vaccination programme has been a roaring success, with almost 85% of adults across the UK receiving a first dose and more than 62% getting both doses.

We are now planning ahead to future-proof this progress and protect our most vulnerable from variants and flu ahead of the winter.

Vaccines are the best way to stay on top of this virus and I urge everybody to take up the offer as soon as possible.

The JCVI's interim advice is that a third booster jab is offered to the following groups in 2 stages:

Stage 1. The following people should be offered a third dose COVID-19 booster vaccine and the annual influenza vaccine as soon as possible from September 2021:

- adults aged 16 years and over who are immunosuppressed
- those living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults aged 70 years or over
- adults aged 16 years and over who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable
- frontline health and social care workers

Stage 2. The following people should be offered a third COVID-19 booster vaccine as soon as practicable after stage 1 with equal emphasis on deployment of the influenza vaccine where eligible:

- all adults aged 50 years and over
- all adults aged 16 to 49 years who are in an influenza or COVID-19 at-risk group as outlined in the [Green Book](#)

- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

Deputy Chief Medical Officer for England, Professor Jonathan Van-Tam said:

Where the UK has reached so far on vaccination is truly fantastic. But we need to keep going and finish giving second doses to those remaining adults who have not had them; this is the best thing we can do prevent the disease from making a comeback which disrupts society later in the year.

Being able to manage COVID-19 with fewer or no restrictions is now heavily dependent on the continued success of the vaccination programme. We want to be on the front foot for COVID-19 booster vaccination to keep the probability of loss of vaccine protection due to waning immunity or variants as low as possible. Especially over the coming autumn and winter.

Fewer or no restrictions will mean that other respiratory viruses, particularly flu, will make a comeback and quite possibly be an additional problem this winter, so we will need to ensure protection against flu as well as maintaining protection against COVID-19.

The announcement of interim advice from JCVI is good news. It shows that the vaccine experts are thinking carefully about how best to use vaccination to protect the most vulnerable and ensure everyone's lives can remain as normal as possible for the autumn and winter.

Of course we have to be driven by data, and there will be more data from vaccine booster studies for JCVI to look at over summer, so we should all remember that this advice is interim and might change between now and September. However JCVI has clearly set out the broad direction of travel which I agree with, and which ministers have accepted.

The success of the vaccination programme is weakening the link between cases and hospitalisations. The latest analysis from Public Health England (PHE) and the University of Cambridge suggests that vaccines have so far prevented an estimated 7.2 million infections and 27,000 deaths in England alone.

The government met its target of offering a vaccine to the most vulnerable by 15 April and is on track to offer a first dose to all adults by 19 July, 2 weeks earlier than planned.

Everyone over the age of 18 and over is eligible to get a vaccine. By 19 July, all those aged 40 and over and the clinically extremely vulnerable, who received their first dose by mid-May, will have been offered their second dose.

Data from Public Health England (PHE) shows that COVID-19 vaccines are highly

effective against hospitalisation from the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant. The analysis suggests the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is 96% effective and the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is 92% effective against hospitalisation after 2 doses.

YouGov polling also shows the UK continues to top the list of nations where people are willing to have a COVID-19 vaccine or have already been vaccinated and ONS data published on 9 June shows that more than 9 in 10 (94%) adults reported positive sentiment towards the vaccine.

See JCVI's [interim advice on potential coronavirus \(COVID-19\) booster vaccine programme](#).

See more information on the [CovBoost trial](#).

Additional scientific data will become available over the next few months which will require further consideration by JCVI ahead of any final advice. These include:

- further data on the safety and effectiveness of COVID-19 vaccines used in the UK and internationally
- clinical trial and real-world effectiveness data on the durability of protection beyond 6 months
- clinical trial data on immune responses following a third vaccination (booster revaccination)
- clinical trial data on reactogenicity and immunogenicity following booster revaccination with the same or alternative COVID-19 vaccines
- clinical trial data on other COVID-19 vaccines in development
- the emergence of any new variants of concern in the UK or internationally
- data on the duration of immunity following a primary course
- a better understanding of the immune correlates of protection
- data on the effects of on-going SARS-CoV2 circulation in the population and its potential to confer long-term public health benefits

JCVI issues interim advice on COVID-19 booster vaccination

Press release

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has been asked to consider the options for a potential coronavirus (COVID-19) booster programme.



The JCVI's interim advice is that any potential COVID-19 booster programme should be offered in 2 stages from September, starting with those most at risk from serious disease. This includes care home residents, people aged over 70, frontline health and social care workers, clinically extremely vulnerable adults and those who are immunosuppressed.

Professor Wei Shen Lim, COVID-19 Chair for JCVI, said:

The primary objective of any potential COVID-19 booster vaccine programme should be to reduce serious disease, including death.

The JCVI's interim advice is that, should a booster programme be required, a third COVID-19 vaccine dose should be offered to the most vulnerable first, starting from September 2021 to maximise individual protection and safeguard the NHS ahead of winter. Almost all these people would also be eligible for the annual flu vaccine and are strongly advised to have the flu vaccine.

We will continue to review emerging scientific data over the next few months, including data relating to the duration of immunity from the current vaccines. Our final advice on booster vaccination may change substantially.

In Stage 1 of a potential booster vaccination programme for 2021 to 2022, the following groups should be offered a booster dose and the flu vaccine from September:

- adults aged 16 years and over who are immunosuppressed
- those living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults aged 70 years or over
- adults aged 16 years and over who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable
- frontline health and social care workers

In Stage 2, the following groups should be offered a booster dose as soon as practicable after Stage 1, with equal emphasis on the flu vaccine where eligible:

- all adults aged 50 years and over

- all adults aged 16 to 49 years who are in an influenza or COVID-19 at-risk group
- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals

As most younger adults will only receive their second COVID-19 vaccine dose in late summer, the benefits of booster vaccination in this group will be considered at a later time when more information is available.

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[Urging all countries to commit to phase out coal power ahead of COP26](#)

Greetings to you all.

It's a pleasure to send you a message at the end of what I hope has been a really interesting and inspiring event.

Friends, we know that if we are to tackle the threat of climate change, and keep the goals of the Paris Agreement within reach, and keep the 1.5 degree temperature limit alive, as we are determined to do at COP26, we must consign coal power to history,

At the same time we need to supporting workers and communities, by creating good green jobs to fill the gap.

And there can be no doubt that the green energy transition is well underway.

Wind and solar are now cheaper than coal in most of the world,

Private investors are moving away from coal, and all the G7 has committed to end support for international coal power and to transition away from dirty coal domestically to overwhelmingly decarbonised power systems.

The Powering Past Coal Alliance plays a vital role in getting that transition moving faster.

So it has been absolutely fantastic to welcome new members today.

And of course to learn from countries' experiences.

And to hear them come forward with new commitments.

Ahead of COP26 in November the UK COP26 Presidency is urging all countries to commit to phase out coal power, which, as we have heard today, is good for both people and our planet.

Setting an end date for coal supports a just transition,

Because if you know where you are going, you can plan how to get there.

So I urge all of you listening who have not already done so to set phase out dates, and join the Powering Past Coal Alliance.

Because working together we can consign coal power to history, where it belongs.

Thank you.

[Helen Forde, Jeannette Strickland and Stephen Hawker reappointed as Members of the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives](#)

News story

The Secretary of State has reappointed Helen Forde and Jeannette Strickland as Members of the Advisory Council on National Records and Archives for a term of four years from 1 July 2021 to 31 January 2025, and Stephen Hawker for a term of four years from 21 October 2021 to 31 January 2025.



Helen Forde

Helen Forde is an archivist who has worked in local government archives, private archives and at The National Archives. Following her retirement she

has worked with the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council, The Postal Museum and Banbury Museum and Gallery. She is the author of 'Preserving Archives' (Facet publishing 2007/2013) and has published many articles on archive preservation and on historical issues.

Jeannette Strickland

Dr Jeannette Strickland is a qualified archivist and independent heritage consultant, having formerly been head of Unilever Art, Archives and Records Management. She is an Honorary Research Fellow at the University of Liverpool and Secretary of In The Company of Horses, a charitable organisation.

Stephen Hawker

Stephen Hawker is a former senior member of the United Kingdom intelligence and security community. After leaving government service in 2006 he worked as an independent consultant providing insight and training to government and the commercial sector in the UK and overseas on national security issues. He has been a Non-Executive Director of FCO Services and an independent member of the FCO Audit and Risk Committee. He is a former member of the Council of the University of Reading and has been a Visiting Professor at Cranfield University.

In addition to his work as a member of ACNRA, he is currently a member of the Security Vetting Appeals Panel (SVAP), a member of the Audit Committee of Manchester Metropolitan University, a trustee of the City Learning Trust and a senior associate of Cityforum. He is a Fellow of the Institutes of Engineering and Technology (FIET) and Civil Protection and Emergency Management (FICPEM).

These roles are remunerated at a rate of £386 per day. This rate is capped at a maximum of 24 days per annum. These reappointments have been made in accordance with the [Cabinet Office's Governance Code on Public Appointments](#). The process is regulated by the Commissioner for Public Appointments. The Government's Governance Code requires that any significant political activity undertaken by an appointee in the last five years is declared. This is defined as including holding office, public speaking, making a recordable donation or candidature for election. Helen, Jeannette and Stephen have not declared any political activity.

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[Government publishes update to](#)

Agricultural Transition Plan

Farmers will be able to earn up to £70 per hectare for actions to improve the health of their soil and livestock farmers will be eligible for a free vet-led annual health and welfare review, Environment Secretary confirmed today in an update on the government's [Agricultural Transition Plan](#).

During his [speech at Cereals arable event](#) today the Environment Secretary set out further details around [how farmers will receive payments](#) for different schemes under the Agricultural Transition Plan, which outlines the government's roadmap towards introducing a renewed agricultural system now we are free from the Common Agricultural Policy which will be tailored in the interests of English farmers and co-designed and developed in partnership with industry.

He also set out that moorland farmers will be able to be paid to assess the condition of their land, and confirmed the early roll-out of the Sustainable Farming Incentive from spring 2022.

Over this Parliament, the government has committed to maintaining the current levels of investment in farming of £2.4bn per year, on average. Unfair and ineffective Direct Payments are being gradually phased out to move to a fairer system, where the funding released will be redirected back to farmers through environmental land management schemes which will help boost productivity and reward environmental improvements.

30% of the funding released from Direct Payments for environmental and climate outcomes will be made available for farm level actions through schemes such as the Sustainable Farming Incentive. Farmers will also be eligible for locally-specific and landscape-level schemes through Local Nature Recovery and Landscape Recovery.

Environment Secretary George Eustice said:

Soil health is the key to delivering our targets on the environment and improving farm profitability. Well managed soils can lead to increased biodiversity, improved water quality and reduced carbon emissions. Our new Sustainable Farming Incentive will eventually be open to every farmer in England and will incentivise a shift towards more sustainable soil and grassland management.

The Sustainable Farming Incentive will be the first of three environmental land management schemes to be rolled out and will include actions to improve soil health and water quality, enhance hedgerows and promote integrated pest management. It will also help to accelerate the widespread adoption of more sustainable approaches on all types of farms, building on the excellent practices that already happen on many farms. These include maintaining and enhancing the natural environment, reducing carbon emissions, and improving the health and welfare of farmed animals.

The scheme is designed to be accessible, relevant and attractive to the widest possible range of farmers to achieve the aim of at least 70% of eligible farms taking part by 2028. An initial call for applicants for the pilot was answered by more than 2,000 farmers and land managers.

By making some Standards – schemes within the Sustainable Farming Incentive – available from next year alongside existing schemes like Countryside Stewardship, Defra wants to provide more ways for farmers to be rewarded for producing public goods, bring more land into environmental management and deliver the environmental outcomes set out in the 25 Year Environment Plan.

Defra will also fund a yearly vet visit to eligible farms through the Annual Health and Welfare review to better understand the health and welfare of the national herd and flock and help to target future support in the right way.

The remainder of the released funds from phasing out the Basic Payment Scheme will be spent on environmental land management schemes, which will include locally tailored initiatives through Local Nature Recovery, and landscape-scale interventions such as Landscape Recovery projects. By 2028, spending will be evenly split across the three schemes, covering farm-level, locally tailored, and landscape-scale investment.

Four guiding Principles have also been published today which set out the approach to environmental scheme payments under the Agricultural Transition Plan. This includes new environmental land management schemes such as the Sustainable Farming Incentive, pre-existing ones like Countryside Stewardship, and time limited schemes such as Farming in Protected Landscapes

The principles are that:

- Payments should provide good value for money and achieve ambitious environment and climate change outcomes. Payment rates will be set to encourage wide participation, fairly and effectively paying farmers for achieving these outcomes
- Payments should, as far as possible, pay for environmental outcomes by recognising and rewarding the full range of activities that achieve environmental and climate outcomes
- Payments should recognise the value of existing natural assets and do not unfairly disadvantage those who are already achieving good environmental and climate outcomes
- Payments should form part of a market for environmental outcomes where scheme participants can earn income from public and private sector sources

Further information on how and what will be paid for through each scheme will

be shared when each of the respective schemes are launched. This staged approach is a crucial principle of the development of these schemes as it reflects the government's commitment to adapt and co-design individual schemes while working closely with industry.

The Government recently launched a consultation on the [lump sum exit scheme and delinked payments](#) which seek to offer a fairer system for farmers, encouraging generational change by providing more flexibility for new entrants to start up their farm businesses and supporting those who are ready to leave the sector to do so on their own terms.