



## **Covid-19 Vaccine – Information for Carers Frequently Asked Questions Edition Four – May 2021**

**Only young carers aged 16 and 17 can now register as unpaid carers for vaccination.**

This is because everyone over 30 who has not already been invited is now being scheduled for vaccination; and a [self-registration service](#) for everyone aged 18-29 has opened.

If you are aged 16 or 17 and provide vital face-to-face care and support for others and haven't already been given an appointment, you are encouraged to register for the coronavirus vaccine through the national Covid-19 Helpline on 0800 030 8013 (available 8am - 8pm all week).

This FAQ document is intended to answer some of your questions about eligibility for this service and what you can expect when you self-register.

### **1. Who is eligible to register as an unpaid carer for the COVID-19 vaccination**

You can register as an unpaid carer if all of the following statements apply to you:

- You are 16 or 17 years old;
- You provide face-to-face care and support to one or more family members, friends or neighbours;
- The care you provide is not part of a contract or voluntary work;
- If caring for someone under 18, they are affected by a disability, physical or mental ill-health, developmental condition or substance misuse; and
- You have not already received your first COVID-19 vaccination or vaccination appointment letter.

#### **Am I included if I meet the above criteria, even though I don't get Carer's Allowance?**

Yes, you do not need to be in receipt of Carer's Allowance or Young Carer Grant to now be eligible for priority vaccination as an unpaid carer.

#### **Am I included if I meet the above criteria, even though I'm not registered as a carer with my GP?**

Yes, you do not have to be registered as a carer with your GP.

**If there is more than one person providing care to the same person that both meet the criteria above, can we each get the vaccine?**

Yes, multiple carers for the same person can now be eligible to receive the vaccination.

**I am a carer and think I should have received my appointment as my age group or cohort has already been called, but I have not received my letter. What should I do?**

Most of the population has already been offered the vaccination due to their age or a pre-existing condition. If you think this is you but you have not had your appointment letter yet, please use the [Missing Appointments form](#) on NHS Inform instead of using the self-registration system.

**I am a kinship carer who looks after a child with extra support needs due to a disability, long term health or developmental condition. Am I eligible for the vaccine as part of this group?**

Yes, you would also be considered an unpaid carer due to the caring responsibilities you have due to your child's additional needs.

**What about unpaid carers over 18? When will I get the COVID-19 vaccine?**

Many carers will already have received appointment letters for the COVID-19 vaccination, either due to their age, a pre-existing condition, or having been identified as carers through Social Security or GP data. Many more have already self-registered for the vaccination.

Everyone over 30 who has not already been invited is now being scheduled for vaccination and should await their appointment letter. If you think you should have received an appointment, but have not received your letter, please use the [Missing Appointments form](#) on NHS Inform.

From 24 May 2021, everyone aged 18-29 will be able to come forward to register for vaccination through the [online portal](#).

**2. How do I self-register as a carer for the COVID-19 vaccination? What can I expect from the process?**

Eligible carers aged 16 and 17 can self-register for the COVID-19 vaccination by calling the National Covid Helpline on 0800 030 8013.

When registering, you will be asked to confirm that you meet all of the above criteria. You will be asked to provide the following information about yourself to help NHS Scotland identify you:

- Date of birth
- Name
- Address and Postcode
- Gender, as registered with your GP

You will then be asked your contact preferences so that once we have identified you, we can confirm your next steps through email or text.

### **I am trying to register but am getting a 'no match response'. What should I do?**

If you are trying to register and getting a no match response, we would suggest paying close attention to the information you are giving the call-handler. **Your full details as registered with your GP are required.**

Ideally, if you can have your CHI number to hand which you can find on any GP or hospital correspondence, this will make it easier for call handlers to match your details

### **Common matching issues:**

If people cannot be matched, this would indicate that some information is being entered incorrectly, and doesn't match their record at their GP. So, it should be possible for them to be matched if they go back and try again. There are only five fields:

- Date of Birth
  - This is done at the very start of the form. It's easy to get numbers mixed up.
- First Name
  - Using a short name, when a long name is registered with GP, or vice versa
  - Person known by middle name all their life, but first name on GP record
- Surname
  - Double-barrelled names are causing issues. For example, if a person's name is 'Abell-Brown' has this been recorded in that format at the GP, or is it still recorded as 'Abell' or 'Brown'?
- Postcode
  - A number of postcodes have been entered incorrectly. As there is a dropdown address selector to help prevent this, it may be that people have moved and not updated their address at their GP.
- Gender
  - 'Prefer not to say' is a perfectly valid choice, but does reduce chances of a match.

### **Can I receive the vaccine at home if I am unable to leave home due to caring responsibilities?**

People are being asked to do everything they can to attend their appointment at the location they have been given. This includes finding replacement care, where possible.

Some home vaccination appointments have been provided in exceptional circumstances however this option is not being offered as a matter of course.

If you believe you are in exceptional circumstances and will not be able to attend any appointment out-with your home, you will be asked to use the Covid Vaccination Helpline option to self-register and speak with someone about the local options available to you.

### **Will I be allowed to bring the person that I care for (or dependent children) to my appointment?**

If you are unable to find replacement care for those you care for, or dependent children, you can bring them to your appointment.

### **3. What happens if I cannot attend the appointment I have been given?**

When you self-register as a carer, you will be notified of your vaccination appointment details. Please do everything you can to attend. You can find out how to reschedule your appointment [here](#).

It is important you get in touch to reschedule, even if this is at short notice. This will ensure vaccine stocks are able to be offered to someone else. You will not be penalised for rescheduling.

### **4. Is the vaccine safe?**

#### **Are there people who shouldn't get the vaccine**

Information about people who shouldn't get the vaccine can be found on the NHS Inform coronavirus vaccine [web-page](#).

#### **Which vaccine will I get?**

NHS Scotland will only use a vaccine if it meets the required standards of safety and effectiveness. Further information can be found on the NHS Inform coronavirus vaccine [web-page](#).

The JCVI has advised that it is preferable for people under 40 to have a vaccine other than Oxford/AstraZeneca. If you choose to have another coronavirus vaccine you may have to wait to be protected.

You may wish to go ahead with the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccination after you have considered all the risks and benefits for you.

If you have already had a first dose of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine without suffering any serious side-effects you should complete the course.

This includes people aged 18 to 39 years who are health and social care workers, unpaid carers and household contacts of those who are severely immunosuppressed.

### **I'm worried about side effects from the vaccine, what should I expect and what should I do if I get side effects?**

Some people may experience side effects after the vaccine. These are usually mild and are much less serious than developing coronavirus or complications associated with coronavirus. Any side effects usually go away within a few days.

For more information about common side effects and what to do if you are worried about your symptoms, see the NHS Inform side effects [web-page](#).

After you get the vaccine, it's still important to follow the latest government guidance.

## **5. Where can I go for further information?**

There is further information on unpaid carers and the COVID-19 vaccination on the Scottish Government's COVID-19 advice for unpaid carers [web-page](#).

For further information, see the NHS Inform coronavirus vaccine web-page. If you have any enquiries about the COVID-19 vaccine, you can contact the Coronavirus Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013 (available 8am - 8pm all week).

### **Is there a helpline I can phone?**

Yes, the Coronavirus Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013 is available 8am - 8pm all week.

### **Is there accessible information available?**

Yes, all leaflets will be available in accessible formats and languages. Please see [NHS Inform](#) or call the helpline for further information.

This Frequently Asked Questions briefing paper has been translated into community languages by MECOPP. You can download them here <https://www.mecopp.org.uk/covid19-vaccination-faqs-in-comm-lang>