

COVID-19 Vaccination for HEE(NW) Trainees – FAQs

This information is correct as of the date of the [associated webinar](#) of 12th January 2021. This information is subject to change as new advice is issued.

Please refer to [HEE \(NW\)'s COVID-19 web page](#) for the latest advice and information.

General information COVID vaccines, dosing and availability in hub sites

1. Can you guarantee that everyone that received the first Pfizer dose will be able to receive the second Pfizer dose in the second hospital?

No – you may need to return to first dose centre or ask nearby local hub.

2. MFT have said second dose in same hospital - do we ignore this?

No, the guidance is generic for the whole population but allows for flexibility in exceptional circumstances. Doctors who rotate between first and second dose are considered exceptional circumstances and there should be flexibility to have second dose in the Trust you rotate to. Second dose will usually be in the same centre but there will be exceptions (relocated trainees is one example).

3. For those of us with reason for a preference of one vaccine brand - how do we find out where it is available?

You would have to explore that at booking for preferred COVID vaccination hub.

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

Hospital Hubs now tasked to vaccinate all health and care workers - up to them to prioritize guided by the Green Book.

5. How long should you wait to get the vaccine if you had COVID?

Answered directly on the webinar, people who have had COVID do enjoy some immunity, but it has been shown to diminish over time and they are eligible for the COVID vaccine. Best time: 4 weeks ideally.

6. It is being reported that having the vaccine neither protects you from catching the virus nor from passing in on to others, merely that it MIGHT reduce symptoms. So, what is the point off this vaccine?

There is no evidence (yet) that it interrupts transmission - that does not mean it does not do it, we just haven't got the evidence.

7. What about the long-term side effects? e.g., immune priming, when vaccinated individuals are exposed to wild corona viruses in months or years. As there is no long-term data or trials, this presumably cannot be eliminated as a side effect. Prof Delores Cahill has been speaking about this.

Content specific but expert comments that: *I think you've answered your own question.*

8. Is the COVID vaccination mandatory for all trainees?

COVID vaccination is voluntary and with consent for all individuals irrespective of profession (including doctors in training).

9. Some colleagues have been expressing concern about pressure being put on them not have the vaccine, can you reassure us that we will not be put under any undue pressure to take have it?

As previously stated, the vaccine is purely voluntary, and it is your choice.

10. Since in the vaccine RCTs the participants will have received their 2nd dose at day 21 these Kaplan Meier graphs will be of participants who did receive the 2nd dose, so how do we know that the flat line is not due to having had a top-up vaccine.

See the [JCVI statement](#).

11. Please can you cover how trainees in small host settings will be vaccinated (e.g., palliative care, public health and others)?

Vaccinations hubs have been briefed to expect requests for booking from people not directly employed by them such as GP practices, hospices, charities, public health & local authorities so this should not be a problem going forwards.

12. 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/practice where they are working that is permissible alternatively, they can book into local hub, the register is national so it will be picked up that 1st dose has been given.

13. Where do the GP registrar be vaccinated, those working in GP practice, please advise?

If there is capacity to vaccinate trainees in the hub/practice where they are working that is permissible, alternatively they can book into local hub, the register is national so it will be picked up that 1st dose has been given.

14. Will trainees in non-healthcare settings, such Public Health trainees working in Local Authorities, be offered a vaccine?

Yes in due course - frontline first. Vaccinations hubs have been briefed to expect requests for booking from people not directly employed by them such as GP practices, hospices, charities, public health & local authorities so this should not be a problem going forwards.

15. What are the plans to ensure smooth occupational health review for trainees who are shielding and have been vaccinated?

OH and management of shielding trainees is an issue for the employing organization and hosts and the Lead Employer have policies which address this.

16. When did the list of CEV and CV trainees get sent from Lead Employer/otherwise to vaccination hubs?

HEE does not hold that information; it is being managed nationally as it relates to confidential medical records & information.

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?

Covered in webinar, and you can arrange as soon as you wish, would suggest make contact a couple of months before scheduled return date as the programme will run well into 2021 and there is high demand just now and supply might limit booking availability.

2. For those of us who wish to wait for a period of weeks or months for a vaccine for personal reasons whilst OOP- will there be ample opportunity to catch up?

As above yes.

3. Will we be able to access vaccine while off on mat leave to enable us to do KIT days (which may involve AGPs)?

Maternity and OOP was covered in the webinar but to reiterate trainees out of programme for whatever reason can request vaccination from their local hub and the recent national guidance has been given to advise trusts to expect requests from health care staff (including trainees) in this group.

4. What is the deanery policy for pregnant employees - I was refused outright on Trust online application system with no option to discuss my case and no contact of who to speak to about it?

Yes - try again Hospital Hubs only tasked on 7 Jan.

5. Please can you outline how trainees returning from maternity leave over the next 3-4 months will be picked up to receive the vaccine.

Maternity was covered in the webinar but to reiterate trainees out of programme for whatever reason can request vaccination from their local hub and the recent national guidance has been given to advise trusts to expect requests from health care staff (including trainees) in this group.

6. Please could you outline how trainees who are out of programme e.g., for research will be picked up and vaccinated to ensure safety on return to full time clinical duties?

Maternity and OOP was covered in the webinar but to reiterate trainees out of programme for whatever reason can request vaccination from their local hub and the recent national guidance has been given to advise trusts to expect requests from health care staff (including trainees) in this group.

Volunteering for vaccination

1. How do we get involved with delivering vaccines? Is this a paid role?

There is a process for managing vaccinations which includes mandatory training & payment if it is not part of programmed training activity. Can be a 'clinical volunteer' (unpaid) or register with a lead employer or NHS Professionals (paid).

2. Will we be paid to give out vaccines?

There is a process for managing vaccinations which includes mandatory training & payment if it is not part of programmed training activity.

3. What is the best/easiest way for dental foundation trainees to become vaccinators? Are we needed? Or are there already enough vaccinators?

DFTs should speak to their TPDs and links with local vaccination teams and do the core training on eLH and contact local Lead Employer.

4. Would trainees OOP be allowed to assist with vaccination programmes on a voluntary/non-paid basis?

Yes, see previous answers.

5. Will trainees who are going to give the vaccine, get the vaccine themselves before giving it to the public?

Vaccinators will be trained and prepared to give vaccinators in line with national policy which might include vaccination if they have not already had it.

Other

1. Slightly off topic - but Q for Prof Mamelok - rotations have been paused in London. Are there are plans for this in the North West in February? Thank You.

No February rotations will go ahead as planned but with local flexibility in areas of high demand, clarity statement was released 14/1/21.

2. Will the many unanswered questions be answered after the session? Appreciate the technical issues but I sent a question in days ago which sadly has not been covered. That is the purpose of this FAQ document.