

Wiltshire Council Front-line Staff Covid Vaccination Programme

Prioritisation of staff for vaccines

National guidance

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that the first priorities for the current COVID-19 vaccination programme should be the prevention of COVID-19 mortality and the protection of health and social care staff and systems. Secondary priorities could include vaccination of those at increased risk of hospitalisation and at increased risk of exposure, and to maintain resilience in essential public services.

Frontline health and social care workers are at increased personal risk of exposure to infection with COVID-19 and of transmitting that infection to susceptible and vulnerable patients in health and social care settings. The committee considers frontline health and social care workers who provide care to vulnerable people a high priority for vaccination. Protecting them protects the health and social care service and recognises the risks that they face in this service.

Within the health and social care workforce, **higher priority should be given to those staff members who have daily contact with high risk and vulnerable groups** to ensure the aims of the programme to prevent mortality and protect systems is achieved with a finite resource.

The government "Green Book", for immunisation against infectious disease provides further detail regarding the JCVI priority groups:

All frontline social care workers directly working with people clinically vulnerable to COVID-19 who need care and support irrespective of where they work (for example in people's own homes, day centres, care homes for working age adults or supported housing); whether they care for clinically vulnerable adults or children; or who they are employed by (for example local government, NHS private sector or third sector employees)

Who is included within the category of 'frontline social care staff/volunteers' for the purposes of the vaccination roll-out in Wiltshire?

This includes:

1. Those working in long-stay residential and nursing care homes or other long-stay care facilities
2. Social care staff/volunteers directly involved in the care of patients or clients
3. Others involved directly in delivering social care such that they and vulnerable patients/ clients are at increased risk of exposure to Covid-19
4. 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. Younger people who are taking part in health and social care work as volunteers, interns or for the purposes of work experience would not be included in this priority cohort.

How will access to the vaccines be prioritised?

We will categorise staff/volunteers in to four priority groups based on:

- The role & environment the person is working in
- Their potential level of exposure to Covid
- The particular vulnerability of the individuals that they are working with

Priority Group 1 - Risk assessed as extremely clinically vulnerable or provide care/treatment to confirmed Covid +ve patients	Those staff/volunteers providing direct care or support to residents who are confirmed Covid +ive Staff working in defined Covid areas, including all 999 staff Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Staff across all organisations that are delivering frontline Social Care functions
Priority Group 2 - Risk assessed as clinically vulnerable or provide care to high number of vulnerable people	Those staff/volunteers in regular contact with high numbers of vulnerable people Eg all inpatient areas, community nursing, responder services Clinically vulnerable staff across all organisations that are delivering frontline Social Care functions
Priority Group 3 - Other patient or public facing roles	Staff/volunteers in contact with lower volume of vulnerable people Eg Health & care staff undertaking tasks such as physio, peg feeding to clients in schools •Domiciliary care staff •Community Pharmacy •Personal assistants to clients •ISTC's and independent sector Social work practitioners undertaking regular community based activity and home visits.
Priority Group 4 - limited patient or public contact or highly critical role	All remaining health, care and voluntary staff working in the social care sector who undertake limited face to face contact with the public or are in a highly critical role where there is no face to face contact
These are not exhaustive lists, just some examples of where work roles may fit in the framework.	