Care Home Managers

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Dear Colleague

Important information about the COVID-19 vaccine

The vaccine that will protect you from COVID-19 is now being made available across Scotland. As a frontline health and social care worker you will be offered the vaccine. This is because you are more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 at work and are at much higher risk of repeated exposure to the infection.

The vaccine is the best way to protect yourself from COVID-19, and if you do catch COVID-19 it reduces your chances of developing serious or life-threatening symptoms.

NHS Scotland will only use a vaccine if it meets the required standards of safety and effectiveness. All medicines, including vaccines, are tested for safety and effectiveness before they’re allowed to be used.

The Medicines & Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) states that the COVID-19 vaccine has been approved for supply in the UK as the expected standards of safety, quality and efficacy have been met.

How is the COVID-19 vaccine given?

• You will be given an injection in your upper arm.
• You will need two doses, and will be contacted to book your second dose
• During your vaccination, strict infection prevention and control measures will be in place.

What should you do next?

• Please read the following:
  • COVID-19 vaccine healthcare worker leaflet prior to booking your appointment
  • http://www.publichealthscotland.scot/covidvaccinescw
  • Flyer for all women of childbearing age, those currently pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding
    https://publichealthscotland.scot/media/2901/covid-vaccine-pregnancy-advice.pdf
  • General COVID-19 vaccination programme information www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine

If you’ve recently tested positive for coronavirus – even if you have no symptoms – you should wait until 4 weeks after the date you were tested before getting the vaccine.
You should also wait until 7 days after your flu vaccine

Any person with a history of a significant allergic reaction to a vaccine, medicine or food (such as previous history of anaphylactoid reaction or those who have been advised to carry an adrenaline autoinjector) should not receive the Pfizer BioNtech vaccine.

The COVID-19 vaccine remains the best protection against COVID-19, helping to protect you, your patients and your family.

Yours sincerely

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