

**Welcome to our April 2025 Newsletter! This month we cover spring booster and spring clean.**

**Definition of healthcare outbreak:** an incident in which 2 or more people experiencing a similar illness are linked in time or place.

**How to Report an Outbreak:**

1. Send an email to UKHSA at london.region@ukhsa.gov.uk for general queries, or use phe.london.region@nhs.net for sending patient identifiable information (PII).
2. Be sure to copy (CC) the NEL IPC team email (nelondonicb.ipc@nhs.net).
3. The NEL IPC Team will follow up with you promptly to provide further assistance.

**Spring 2025 COVID-19 Booster Programme – Protect Yourself This Season**

As we embrace the warmer months, it's crucial to ensure our health remains a top priority. The Spring 2025 COVID-19 Booster Programme is now underway, offering an additional vaccine dose to those most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

**Who is eligible?**

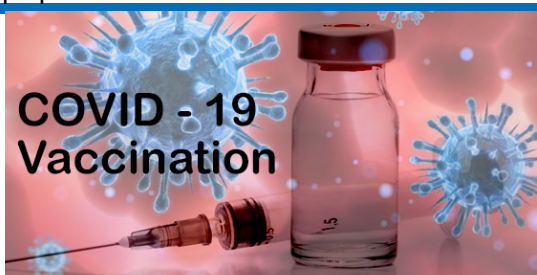
According to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), the following groups are eligible for the spring booster

- Adults aged 75 years and over
- Residents in care homes for older adults
- Individuals aged 6 months and over with a weakened immune system

These groups are prioritised due to their increased risk of severe illness from COVID-19.

**Why is the booster important?**

Immunity from previous vaccinations or infections can gradually decrease over time. The spring booster is designed to top up your protection, reducing the risk of severe illness, hospitalisation, and death from COVID-19. Data from previous campaigns indicate that booster doses significantly enhance immunity in vulnerable populations.

**How to get your booster**

- **Invitations:** The NHS will contact eligible individuals to schedule their booster appointments.
- **Booking:** Appointments can be booked through the [NHS website](https://www.nhs.uk), or by calling 119.
- **Vaccination Sites:** Vaccines will be administered at various locations, including GP practices, pharmacies, and community clinics, ensuring convenient access for all.

**Vaccine information**

The vaccines used for the spring booster have been updated to target recent COVID-19 variants, providing robust protection against current strains. These vaccines have undergone rigorous testing to ensure their safety and effectiveness. [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

**Possible side effects**

Common side effects are generally mild and short-lived, including:

- Soreness at the injection site
- Fatigue
- Headache
- Muscle aches

These symptoms typically resolve within a few days. If you experience more severe or persistent symptoms, it's advisable to consult a healthcare professional. [GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk)

**Stay informed**

For more detailed information, please refer to the official [UK Government guidance on the Spring 2025 COVID-19 Vaccination Campaign](https://www.gov.uk/government/guidance/spring-2025-covid-19-vaccination-campaign).

Let's work together to keep ourselves and our communities safe. Ensure you're protected this spring by getting your COVID-19 booster. Stay healthy and enjoy the season with confidence! 🌸

**Introduction:** Spring Cleaning in Healthcare refers to a thorough and comprehensive cleaning and organising process within healthcare facilities to ensure a safe, hygienic, and efficient environment for both patients and staff. It involves deep cleaning, disinfecting high-touch surfaces, organising medical supplies, checking equipment, and reviewing infection control protocols. The goal is to maintain a clean, safe, and compliant environment that supports patient care, reduces the spread of infections, and meets health and safety regulations.

**Key areas to focus on include:**

## Patient Rooms & Communal Areas

- Deep clean surfaces (bedrails, furniture, light switches, door handles)
- Clean and disinfect upholstery
- Wash curtains and linens
- Ensures proper air circulation
- Clean carpets, tiles, and floors
- Ensure that a cleaning rota is in place indicating the frequency of cleaning of carpets and curtains
- Clean all ducts and vents (including extractor fans)

## Medical Equipment

- Decontaminate and store reusable tools per health protocols
- Check expiration dates on medications and equipment, including first aid kits.
- Thoroughly sanitise high-touch items (IV poles, monitors, infusion pumps)

## Bathrooms & Staff Areas

- Disinfect bathrooms surfaces, including toilets, sinks, and countertops
- Ensure soap, paper towels, and hand sanitiser dispensers are fully stocked. Ensure these are of a single-cartridge design and not refillable.
- Sanitise employee lounges, including break rooms and kitchen areas

## Storage & Supply Rooms

- Organise medical supplies and dispose of outdated items
- Ensure pest control and secure food storage areas
- Ensure adequate stocks of PPE are available
- Ensure PPE are available at point of use in clean and dry areas to avoid cross-contamination.



## Staff Training

- Refresh staff on hygiene practices and infection control protocols
- Ensure cleaning staff are trained on proper disinfection techniques

## Technology & IT Systems

- Clean tech equipment (keyboards, phones, etc.)
- Ensure policies are up to date.

## Compliance Checks

- Ensure adherence to local health department regulations
- Conduct patient safety inspections (fire alarms, emergency equipment)

## Communication

- Educate patients on hand hygiene and cleanliness practices
- Remind families and visitors about hygiene and cleanliness practices



By implementing spring cleaning, healthcare facilities create a safer, more hygienic environment that reduces infection risks and enhances patient care.

**IPC Team contact details**  
**Generic email for advice: [nelondonicb.ipc@nhs.net](mailto:nelondonicb.ipc@nhs.net)**



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**References:**

- [JCVI statement on COVID-19 vaccination in 2025 and spring 2026 - GOV.UK](#)
- [A guide to the spring 2025 COVID-19 vaccination campaign - GOV.UK](#)
- [Book, change, or cancel a COVID-19 vaccination appointment online - NHS](#)