



Weekly Regional Bulletin
COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations
2nd April 2026

Key information, updates, and required actions for COVID-19 and flu vaccination programmes. For questions, please contact england.london-covid19voc@nhs.net

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1. Amendments to the Human Medicines Regulations – FOR INFORMATION

Regulation 19, which has previously enabled the distribution of COVID-19 vaccines between end users without a Wholesale Dealer's License (commonly referred to as 'mutual aid'), has changed. The new regulation [The Human Medicines \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#) permits supply of intact, complete packs between individuals in exceptional circumstances where defined conditions are met.

As a result of these amendments the NHS England policy 'Transfer of COVID-19 vaccines between NHS vaccination sites' (Mutual Aid Policy) has been withdrawn.

The movement of COVID-19 vaccines and all other vaccines used in nationally commissioned vaccination programmes must align to regulated routes, including under Regulation 19 where the defined conditions are met.

2. Legal mechanisms for administration - COVID-19 Spring 2026 vaccination programme – FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION

The [Vaccine Group Direction](#) (VGD) for the COVID-19 Spring 2026 vaccination programme has been published. This new legal mechanism will enable some elements of vaccination activity to be delegated. NHS Specialist Pharmacy Service have published guidance to support teams in [Understanding VGDs](#).

NHS England has provided central organisational authorisation for this VGD. For providers using a VGD model for service delivery, vaccinating teams should read, understand and be locally authorised to use the document (completing the self-declaration and local manager countersignature in Section 7) prior to vaccinating.

The equivalent [Patient Group Direction](#) (PGD) was published in March.

3. Spring COVID-19 communications resources – FOR INFORMATION

From 7 April 2026, those eligible for the spring COVID-9 vaccine can start booking their vaccine appointments (first appointments from 13 April). Please support those eligible to come forward through invitations, opportunistic conversations and by [utilising the communications assets available on the Campaign Resource Centre](#).

4. COVID-19 Vaccination: Order your vaccine – **FOR INFORMATION AND ACTION**

Action Required: Order Your SS26 COVID-19 Vaccines Through FDP

The Spring 2026 COVID-19 vaccination programme starts on 13 April 2026 - that's less than two weeks away. Patients who are eligible for COVID-19 vaccination will be booking appointments. If you have not yet ordered vaccine through the FDP Supply Dashboard, you need to do this promptly to ensure stock arrives in time.

Vaccine is not automatically sent to your site this year. If you do not place an order, you will not have vaccine when your patients arrive. Ordering takes only a few minutes. Log into the [FDP Supply Dashboard](#) now, check your campaign entitlement, choose your delivery date, and submit your order. Step-by-step guidance is available at: [08. How to order vaccine - Vaccinations and Screening - Futures](#).

Please note there may be brief system downtime on 1 April due to ICB boundary changes. If you experience access issues that day, please try again shortly after before contacting your IT Service Desk.

Still unsure how FDP works?

Although the live training sessions (23 February – 11 March) have now concluded, all [recordings](#) and updated training [guides](#) are available on the V&S Futures workspace and [FDP](#), covering: vaccine ordering, allocations, stocktake requirements, and FDP demonstrations.

Key resources

- [Updated Spring 2026 training guides](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Updated Spring 2026 training webinars](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Detained Estates - Full Training Session](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Spring 2026 provider programme guide](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Spring 2026 programme updates & documents](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Setting up your FDP account](#)
- [FDP Supply Dashboard](#)

Need help?

If you are unable to access FDP, contact your local IT Service Desk in the first instance, then escalate to your [ICB](#) if problems persist. For all other vaccine supply queries, contact your [ICB](#) through standard escalation procedures.

5. London Region Drop In Sessions for Supply, Tech/Data and Site Readiness – Spring 2026 Campaign – FOR INFORMATION

As we prepare for the Spring 2026 campaign, we will be running a series of **optional drop-in sessions** to support sites with any issues or questions relating to:

- **Vaccine supply and ordering**
- **Technical or data queries**
- **General site readiness**

These sessions are open to all providers and can be joined at any point during the allocated time. They are intended as a supportive space to resolve issues quickly and ensure sites feel confident ahead of campaign launch.

We would be grateful if you could **share this invitation with your providers** and encourage attendance where you feel it would be beneficial.

Session dates: Tuesday 7th April – Monday 13th April, 11am – 11:30am

Joining details: [Microsoft Teams meeting](#)

If you have any questions in advance, please contact your ICB.

6. Spring 2026 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme – New FDP feature: modify order

– FOR INFORMATION

Providers can now modify existing vaccine orders directly through the Federated Data Platform (FDP) Supply Dashboard. This new feature allows you to update order quantities or delivery dates without needing to cancel and resubmit. Log into the [FDP Supply Dashboard](#) to use this feature. Full [guidance](#) is available on the [V&S Futures workspace](#).

Support Available – FDP Drop-In Sessions Now Scheduled

The national team will be hosting informal weekly drop-in sessions for any provider with FDP queries relating to the Spring 2026 COVID-19 vaccination programme. Sessions run weekly from 31 March through to 5 May 2026. Please register for a session if you need support or have any questions, all are welcome regardless of experience level.

[Registration links](#) for all six sessions are available on the [V&S Futures workspace](#).

Useful links: [FDP Supply Dashboard](#)

Guidance

- [Updated Spring 2026 training guides](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Updated Spring 2026 training webinars](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Detained Estates - Full Training Session](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Spring 2026 provider programme guide](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Spring 2026 programme updates & documents](#) – V&S Futures workspace
- [Setting up your FDP account](#)

7. RSV programme expansion communication resources – FOR INFORMATION

In light of the recent press release: [NHS England » Millions of older people to get vaccine against serious lung infection](#), please make use of the resources on the Campaign Resource Centre to encourage those newly eligible and those yet to come forward to book their RSV vaccination appointment.

Providers should also take the opportunity to offer **co-administration with COVID-19 vaccines** where suitable.

8. Faith-based approaches to reducing vaccination and screening inequalities webinar on 16 April, 1.00pm-2.30pm – FOR INFORMATION

Join us for an interactive and informative webinar exploring engagement and communication approaches used with faith leaders and faith communities to help reduce health inequalities in vaccination uptake and cervical cancer screening. Drawing on two nationally commissioned projects, this session will share practical learning on building trust, improving confidence, and supporting informed choice within underserved faith communities.

This session will explore how culturally sensitive engagement and communication approaches can:

- Increase understanding of routine childhood vaccination schedule changes
- Improve confidence in HPV vaccination
- Support informed uptake of cervical screening
- Reduce inequalities in access to vaccination and screening services

Please disseminate this invitation to relevant colleagues and [click here to register](#).

For questions or further information, please contact the Vaccinations and Screening Equalities Team at: england.vaccination-equalities@nhs.net