



Weekly Regional Bulletin
COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations
1st May 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. Important Reminder: Amendment to the Human Medicines Regulations and Withdrawal of the Mutual Aid Policy– FOR INFORMATION

As part of the national changes to COVID-19 vaccine governance, all providers are reminded that vaccine distribution must now fully comply with the Human Medicines Regulations (HMR) 2012. The temporary Vaccine Transfer Policy (mutual aid), which previously allowed movement of COVID-19 vaccines between end users without a Wholesale Dealer's Authorisation (WDA), has been **withdrawn**.

Under the HMR, COVID-19 vaccines are regulated in the same way as all other Prescription Only Medicines (POMs). This means:

- Each provider will receive its own vaccine supply.
- Providers must not distribute, transfer, or share vaccine stock with any organisation outside their own legal entity.
- This includes GP practices within the same PCN, community pharmacies, or any other provider.
- Any movement of vaccine between different legal entities without a WDA is a breach of the Human Medicines Regulations.

Only in **exceptional circumstances**, and where the defined conditions under **Regulation 19** ([The Human Medicines \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#)) are met, can any transfer of any medicinal product occur.

All providers are expected to adhere to these requirements in full. These changes are now in effect and apply to all COVID-19 vaccine supply and distribution activity.

2. Spring 2026 COVID-19 Vaccination Programme: Spikevax LP.8.1 **- Vaccine Shelf Life and Stock Management – FOR INFORMATION**

Spikevax LP.8.1 has a maximum 30-day refrigerated shelf life once thawed. As some shelf life is used during distribution, vaccine received at your site will therefore have less than 30 days remaining. Sites should plan vaccination activity accordingly and avoid holding surplus stock. Given this, sites should order little and often, placing smaller, more frequent orders aligned to confirmed clinic activity rather than ordering in bulk. Increased logistical capacity is in place to support more frequent deliveries, so sites do not need to hold large amounts of stock to maintain continuity of supply. Smaller pack sizes (10, 20, and 30 doses) of Spikevax LP.8.1 are available through the [FDP Supply Dashboard](#) to help sites match order volumes more precisely to planned demand.

To minimise expiry risk, sites should order vaccine in line with confirmed clinic activity and use smaller pack sizes where available to match volumes more precisely to planned demand.

Where operational circumstances require delivery of vaccine with less than 7 days of shelf-life remaining, we expect to notify providers in advance.

Automatic Order Amendments

Sites that have placed two orders for the same day, where one order includes a pack down quantity, will find their orders are being merged into a total that exceeds 30 doses but is not a multiple of 50. This only happens in rare instances.

When this occurs, the national team will automatically amend the order as follows:

- If the site has remaining allocation: the order will be rounded up to the nearest 50 doses.
- If the site has no remaining allocation: the order will be rounded down to the nearest 50 doses.

No action is required from sites. If you have any questions about your order, please contact the national team.

Need help?

For vaccine supply queries, contact your [ICB](#) through standard escalation procedures.