



Weekly Regional Bulletin
COVID-19 and Flu Vaccinations
8th 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. Movement of COVID-19 vaccines - reminder – **FOR ACTION!**

There have been multiple queries in relation to the movement of COVID-19 vaccines. The below summarises the current position.

- Vaccines (as Prescription Only Medicines) are governed by [The Human Medicines Regulations 2012](#), which require that they can only be distributed from one organisation to another where the supplying organisation holds a Wholesale Distribution Authorisation (WDA) license.
- An organisation is permitted to move vaccines within its own sites, for example a GP practice can move vaccine from their main site to vaccinate patients at its branch surgery, or a Trust can move vaccine between its hospital sites.
- Community Pharmacies should note that the specification for pharmacy contractors specifically states that *'COVID-19 vaccines are allocated to the pharmacy contractor and the pharmacy premises and must not be shared with other providers providing a similar vaccination service without the express prior consent of the Commissioner'*.
- Distribution of COVID-19 vaccine by organisations without a WDA (through the process known as Mutual Aid) was permitted under a temporary amendment to Regulation 19. This regulation was revised and made permanent on 1 April 2026 and now **only allows for distribution under specific conditions**, as described in the regulations [The Human Medicines \(Amendment\) Regulations 2026](#). These conditions facilitate access to vaccine for the population and are not intended to be used to reduce waste.

If vaccination has occurred following non-permitted movement:

- where the vaccine has been transported in line with the conditions set out in the Marketing Authorisation (complete, intact packs and maintenance of cold chain), this it would not be considered off label and there would be no requirement to notify the individuals vaccinated.
- any distribution of vaccine where storage/handling has not been in line with the Marketing Authorisation will be considered an incident and local policy will be followed.
- In both cases, all providers must ensure that lessons are learnt and steps taken to prevent any further movement of vaccines outside of permitted routes.

The region, as commissioner, will review every instance of non-permitted vaccine movement and will issue a non-compliance notification to the provider involved. These notifications form part of our formal assurance process and signal that any movement outside permitted routes are taken seriously, recorded, and may inform future compliance discussions. Providers should be aware that repeated non-compliance may lead to further action, so this serves as a reminder of the expectations set out in national guidance and the relevant service specification.

2. Recording product codes for all vaccination events – FOR ACTION!

Action required: Ensure product codes are recorded for all vaccination events (stock replenishment impact)

We are continuing to see a number of sites recording vaccination events without a product code.

An accompanying spreadsheet is attached for regional team visibility only, highlighting practices where vaccination events are continuing to be recorded without a product code in the last 7 days. This is not intended to be shared directly with all providers.

Why this matters

Where a product code is missing, this can cause issues for national reporting and, importantly, can impact vaccine stock replenishment. In some cases, this may affect a site's ability to maintain stock and continue vaccinating patients if replenishment is delayed or not triggered as expected.

What practices need to do (going forward)

- Ensure the correct **product code** is selected and saved for **every** vaccination event, not just the procedure code.
- If staff are unsure where to enter the product code, or if it is not appearing as expected in the system workflow, practices should contact their GPIT supplier helpdesk for support.

3. Vaccine expiring over the next two weeks – FOR INFORMATION

What's happening

Batches of Spikevax LP.8.1 vaccine will expire over the coming days. To minimise waste and make the most of available stock, we need your help.

Check and prioritise your stock

- Log into the FDP Supply Dashboard where you can see the quantity of vaccine in stock due to expire in the coming days
- Identify batches approaching expiry and use these first (First Expiry, First Out)
- Regularly update your stocktake in FDP to reflect current stock levels accurately

Maximise vaccination opportunities

- Review appointment capacity and open additional slots where possible
- Make use of walk-in opportunities where appropriate

Order smaller quantities going forward

- Smaller pack sizes (10, 20, and 30 doses) are available via the FDP Supply Dashboard to help match vaccine supply to confirmed activity
- Order little and often rather than in bulk, increased delivery capacity supports frequent, smaller deliveries
- Align future orders to confirmed clinic activity only to reduce expiry risk

If stock expires before use

- Declare expired stock as wastage on FDP Site Stock Manager so you can request replacement stock.
- Additional vaccine can be ordered ahead of planned clinics if needed

Providers are reminded that proactive stock management and accurate FDP reporting are essential to keeping vaccine wastage within expected contractual levels.

4. Stocktake rule now active – FOR INFORMATION

Stocktake compliance is now in place across all COVID-19 vaccination sites. Sites that do not submit stocktakes will be unable to increase their vaccine allocation nor will they be able to order vaccine.

What you need to do

Submit a stocktake for every vaccine type you hold at least once every 7 days (unless you meet one of the exceptions to the rule as set out below). Stocktakes must be completed at the end of the working day, particularly on days when vaccine is delivered, as submitted data is taken as the end-of-day position. Make sure batch numbers, quantities, and use-by dates match vaccine box labels exactly.

Exceptions to the 7-day rule

1. You do not need to submit a stocktake if your last recorded stocktake showed zero stock and you have not received any further deliveries since.
2. If you are a new site and have never received a particular vaccine, you do not need to submit a zero stocktake before placing your first order.

What happens if you are not compliant

FDP will automatically block vaccine orders from sites that are not stocktake compliant. SVOCs and Regions submitting requests on behalf of a site are also subject to this rule.

Useful links

- [FDP Supply Dashboard](#)

Guidance

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

If you have any questions, please contact your [ICB](#).

5. Vaccination workforce planning resources - toolkit updates and vaccination workforce forum – FOR INFORMATION

Updated vaccination workforce planning toolkits are now available on NHS Futures ([vaccination workforce - toolkits](#)) to support workforce planning, resourcing, and delivery. Toolkits will benefit vaccination programme/ops managers, workforce planners/leads, PCN/provider leads, and colleagues leading service design and outreach planning. The updated toolkits are:

[Toolkit 4 - Workforce Planning for Vaccination: Management Guidance](#) - a guide for workforce planners and managers that aligns with the 10-year Healthcare Plan and NHS England's Vaccination Strategy, provides updates to workforce planning considerations (including on access and inequalities, and Human Medicines Regulations), links to operational case studies (shared at NHS England's monthly vaccination workforce forum) and updates links to learning resources.

[Toolkit 5 - Workforce Planning for Vaccination: System Workforce Maturity Assessment](#) - a management self-assessment tool designed to assist planners to assess vaccination workforce plans against considerations and success factors (from shared learning) that enable workforce optimisation for vaccines delivery. An audio-visual guide ([Toolkit 5a](#)) is also available.

[Toolkit 6 - Workforce Planning for Vaccination: Outreach Planning Tool](#) - designed to assist vaccination service providers to resource and plan vaccination outreach programmes. The tool combines user programme inputs and current workforce costs to deliver an estimate of outreach resource requirements (time, workforce, and cost). An audio-visual guide ([Toolkit 6a](#)) is also available.

Shared learning from NHS England's monthly vaccination workforce forums - including recordings and presentations - is also available on NHS Futures ([vaccination workforce forum - recordings & presentations](#)).

Feedback on toolkits and requests to join NHS England's monthly vaccination workforce forum should be addressed to england.workforce.transformation1@nhs.net.

Thank you all for your continued commitment to delivering a successful Spring 2026 vaccination campaign.