

## 24/2/21 COVID VACCINES FOR CARERS:

To be able to access an appointment for a COVID vaccine locally we can now provide our patients with the following advice:

*“From 23/2/21 unpaid carers aged 18-64 can book a COVID-19 vaccination appointment via the national booking system without receiving a letter. To be eligible they need to be in receipt of carer’s allowance. They can book online at [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or call 119 free of charge, between 7am and 11pm , seven days a week.*

*Carers aged 18-64 who do not receive carer’s allowance and are not already registered with their council’s Carer’s Support Centre, should do so. They will then be contacted to book an appointment at a local centre. \*\**

*If you live in Shropshire, your Carer Support Centre (Shropshire Council) can be contacted on 01743 341995 or by email: [Shropshire.Carers@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Shropshire.Carers@shropshire.gov.uk)*

*Carers are defined as those caring for an ELDERLY or DISABLED person who is at increased risk of COVID 19 mortality and therefore clinically vulnerable.*

*Those clinically vulnerable to COVID 19 include:*

- *Children with severe neuro-disabilities*
- *Those who are designated Clinically Extremely Vulnerable / in receipt of a SHIELDING LETTER*
- *Adults with underlying health conditions (see attached sheet for the full specification from Green Book - JCVI)*

*Locally we have agreed the vaccination via this route.*

*Shropshire Councils and the local Carers Support Centres are continuing to work hard to support the NHS, to ensure that all unpaid carers of clinically vulnerable people receive a COVID-19 vaccination.*

*They are encouraging people to register their details to ensure they receive the latest information and to assist them, where necessary in booking appointments.”*

**\*\*** we are not sure whether this means your medical practice will then receive notification to be able to invite you to a local clinic but we have not yet been given the instructions of what to do. However, in the first instance a person will need to be registered with their council’s Carer’s Support Centre.

Table 3 Clinical risk groups 16 years of age and over who should receive COVID-19 immunisation

Chronic respiratory disease	Individuals with a severe lung condition, including those with asthma that requires continuous or repeated use of systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission, and chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) including chronic bronchitis and emphysema; bronchiectasis, cystic fibrosis, interstitial lung fibrosis, pneumoconiosis and bronchopulmonary dysplasia
Chronic heart disease and vascular disease	Congenital heart disease, hypertension with cardiac complications, chronic heart failure, individuals requiring regular medication and/or follow-up for ischaemic heart disease. This includes individuals with atrial fibrillation, peripheral vascular disease or a history of venous thromboembolism.
Chronic kidney disease	Chronic kidney disease at stage 3, 4 or 5, chronic kidney failure, nephrotic syndrome, kidney transplantation.
Chronic liver disease	Cirrhosis, biliary atresia, chronic hepatitis.
Chronic neurological disease	Stroke, transient ischaemic attack (TIA). Conditions in which respiratory function may be compromised due to neurological disease (e.g. polio syndrome sufferers). This includes individuals with cerebral palsy, severe or profound learning disabilities, Down's Syndrome, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, dementia, Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease and related or similar conditions; or hereditary and degenerative disease of the nervous system or muscles; or severe neurological disability.
Diabetes mellitus	Any diabetes, including diet-controlled diabetes.
Immunosuppression	Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment, including patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression, patients undergoing radical radiotherapy, solid organ transplant recipients, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients, HIV infection at all stages, multiple myeloma.
Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen	This also includes conditions that may lead to splenic dysfunction, such as homozygous sickle cell disease, thalassemia major and coeliac syndrome.
Morbid obesity	
Severe mental illness	