



Statement on COVID-19 vaccination for health and social care workers

Following the amendment to the Health and Social Care Act 2008 to mandate COVID-19 vaccination for all health and social care workers from April 2022, the Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) undertook a public consultation between 9 and 16 February 2022. [The full consultation document is available online](#). In Scotland and Wales there are no plans to require vaccination; in Northern Ireland, a separate consultation is underway.

In their [response to the consultation](#), issued on 1st March, the Government announced its intention to bring forward regulations to revoke vaccination as a condition of deployment in light of the latest scientific evidence and having considered the views received as part of the consultation as well as an analysis of equalities impacts.

The regulations came into force on 15 March to provide certainty for employers, their staff, patients and people who receive care or support ahead of 1 April when regulations extending the requirement to health and wider social care are due to come into force.

However, although the Government has revoked vaccination as condition of deployment requirements, the importance of vaccination remains clear: vaccines save lives, and everyone working in health and social care has a professional duty to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

While the AHCS does not require COVID-19 vaccination as a condition of registration, all Registrants who are not exempt are urged to consider their unique responsibility in being in close contact with some of the most vulnerable people in society and those more likely to suffer serious consequences as result of COVID-19 infection. It is a primary duty and a matter of professionalism for everyone working in healthcare to avoid preventable harm for those they care for, as well as their colleagues and, in a wider context, the NHS itself.

All Registrants should ensure they meet and maintain the standards for registration, which outline a professional framework of working, including upholding patient safety, promoting and protecting the interests of service users and carers, as well as actively managing and mitigating risk. For further information, please see the [AHCS Good Scientific Practice](#) document for a reminder of the professional standards on which safe and good working practice is founded for all those in the healthcare science workforce. Registrants should also ensure they are familiar with their employer's legal requirements in this area. Further support may also be gained from local Trade Union representatives.

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