

To: People in England aged 12 and over with a weakened immune system

We join together as NHS and charity leaders to encourage people with a weakened immune system to continue to book in or visit a walk-in centre for their Covid-19 vaccines. All individuals aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed are advised to receive a Spring booster dose of the vaccine, typically six months after their last dose.

COVID-19 is still out there and the vaccine offers the best defence against becoming seriously unwell, staying out of hospital and passing on the virus to loved ones and others around you. It is safe, effective and free for everyone, with thousands of convenient appointments every day. You do not even need to be registered with a GP practice to receive your vaccine.

If you are immunosuppressed, either due to a health condition or medical treatment, you may not yet have the best protection you can possibly get from the vaccine. Additionally, there may be some people who are immunosuppressed who have not been vaccinated at all and we urge them to come forward.

You should usually be contacted by the NHS when you are due a Spring booster. Please do take up this offer. If you haven't heard and you think you may be eligible then you can book a vaccination and come forward.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation recommends that people with a weakened immune system receive their Spring booster as close as possible to six months after their last dose for maximum protection. However, the booster can be given from three months where necessary, depending on individual circumstances.

The NHS has made some changes which means it has never been easier to get your booster if you are immunosuppressed. After booking, you can bring one of several documents to the appointment to confirm you are eligible. This could be a letter from your GP or specialist advising you get the jab, a hospital letter about your condition or medication, or a prescription or medication box with your name and a date on it.

If you don't have any of this evidence to hand, don't worry – just speak to a clinician when you arrive for your appointment.

Vaccination appointments can be booked quickly and conveniently by visiting <u>www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination</u>, where you can also find out which vaccines you are eligible for. If you can't go online, telephone 119 for the same information – calls are free and translators are available on request.

Whether one of your vaccines is overdue or you haven't had your first yet, please be assured that it isn't too late. We encourage you to book an appointment today.

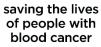
NHS England and NHS Improvement

Yours sincerely,

Professor Stephen Powis, National Medical Director, NHS England and NHS Improvement Steve Russell, National Director for Vaccinations and Screening, NHS England and NHS Improvement Dr Nikita Kanani MBE, Deputy Senior Responsible Officer, NHS Vaccine Deployment, and Medical Director for Primary Care, NHS England and NHS Improvement Dr Jonathan Leach OBE, Medical Director for COVID-19 Vaccination, NHS England and NHS Improvement Dr Bola Owolabi, Director, Healthcare Inequalities, NHS England and NHS Improvement Henny Braund MBE, CEO, Anthony Nolan Gemma Peters, CEO, Blood Cancer UK Genevieve Edwards, CEO, Bowel Cancer UK William Jones, CEO, Brainstrust Alex Lochrane, CEO, The Brain Tumour Charity Baroness Delyth Morgan, CEO, Breast Cancer Now Mr Sharif Kaf Al-Ghazal, President, British Islamic Medical Association Pamela Healy OBE, CEO, British Liver Trust Matthew Patey OBE, CEO, British Skin Foundation Dr Sanjeev Patel, President, British Society for Rheumatology Professor Frank Chinegwundoh MBE, Chair, Cancer Black Care Ian Walker, Executive Director of Policy, Information and Communications, Cancer Research UK Jane Lyons, CEO, Cancer52 Rev Charles Kwaku-Odoi, Chief Officer, Caribbean and African Health Network Eddie Chan, Co-Chair, Chinese Welfare Trust Sarah Sleet, CEO, Crohn's and Colitis UK Louise Ansari, National Director, Healthwatch England Umesh Sharma, Chair, Hindu Council UK Samantha Dixon, CEO, Jo's Cervical Cancer Trust Nick Turkentine, CEO, Kidney Cancer UK Paul Bristow, CEO, Kidney Care UK Zack Pemberton-Whiteley, CEO, Leukaemia Care Fiona Hazell, CEO, Leukaemia UK Paul Howard, CEO, LUPUS UK Dr Anthony Cunliffe, National Clinical Advisor Primary Care, Macmillan Cancer Support Nick Moberly, CEO, MS Society Sophie Castell, CEO, Myeloma UK Deborah Gold, CEO, National AIDS Trust Dr Charlotte Augst, CEO, National Voices Ali Stunt, CEO, Pancreatic Cancer Action Diana Jupp, CEO, Pancreatic Cancer UK Laura Kerby, CEO, Prostate Cancer UK Helen McAteer, CEO, The Psoriasis Association Richard Davidson, CEO, Sarcoma UK Sue Farrington, CEO, Scleroderma & Raynaud's UK

Emma Willis, Co-CEO, Shine Cancer Support Kirit Mistry, Chair, South Asian Health Action Dr Binita Kane, Co-Founder, South Asian Heritage Month Annwen Jones OBE, CEO, Target Ovarian Cancer Kate Collins, CEO, Teenage Cancer Trust Ian Green, CEO, Terrence Higgins Trust Deborah Alsina MBE, CEO, Versus Arthritis





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