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1. **Programme introduction**

**Programme overview**

The vaccination programme in Wales began on 14 January, with the delivery of the first vaccinations for Covid-19 in England and Wales at HMP Usk. Planning for vaccinations began in September 2020 when the Heads of Healthcare in Wales joined their local Vaccine Planning Boards. The vaccination decision (e.g. which prisoners are identified to receive the vaccination) is a clinical decision that must be made by health practitioners. As such if an identified prisoner refuses the vaccination health colleagues must determine which prisoner the vaccination appointment is transferred to.

**Programme governance**

Prisoner vaccinations are a health responsibility overseen by the Local Health Boards in Wales and will be delivered in each prison by the local healthcare provider. The healthcare provider will be responsible for all aspects of the programme including but not limited to; logistical arrangements for receiving and storing all equipment and vaccinations, the identification and notification of vaccine-eligible prisoners, dispensing the vaccination itself and post-vaccination recording and monitoring. Health providers will record which prisoners have been vaccinated for medical records.

HMPPS or private prison providers where applicable will be responsible for enabling healthcare providers to administer all aspects of the vaccination process effectively, efficiently and safely. Prison responsibilities will therefore include but not be limited to; ensuring prisoners that have been identified for vaccinations are safe in the lead up to the appointment, escorting prisoners to vaccination appointments, verifying their identity if required, escorting them back to their accommodation and ensuring their safety as a vaccinated person within the establishment. Prison staff will also record which prisoners have been vaccinated for operational prison purposes.

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| Prison responsibilities pre vaccine: |
| * The prison should consider appointing a designated SPOC to support the Healthcare lead to deliver all aspects of the prisoner vaccination programme effectively.
* The prison will ensure that Gate Staff are suitably and effectively briefed to receive any deliveries associated with the Covid vaccine. Prisons should liaise closely with their healthcare teams to know when to expect any packages at the gate, as they will receive notice from the Local Health Board.
* Healthcare providers will receive notice of deliveries and should make sure that a member of the healthcare team is available to receive all items.
* The prison SPOC will support healthcare to ensure timely and effective briefings on all aspects of the programme are delivered to prisoner and staff groups as needed.
* The prison should confirm with healthcare providers that each prisoner’s primary care registration and arranged continuity of care appointments are completed as part of pre-release resettlement planning. Health colleagues have access to patient comms from the Local Health Board and information products for prisoners. Prison staff should ensure that these are provided to prisoners and that they have opportunities to ask any questions.
* The health provider will be responsible for booking the appointments and notifying the prisoner and securing the prisoner consent. The prison should agree local plans with the healthcare provider for relevant staff to be notified of the upcoming appointment.
* Health practitioners will be responsible for securing consent and for handling any issue of a prisoner not deemed capable to give consent. Prison staff will need to enable health colleagues to secure consent and ensure that the prisoner is available for any discussions with health colleagues in advance of the appointment.
* The prison must ensure that the vaccination programme is prioritised and that where required other tasks are dropped to ensure the vaccination goes ahead whenever scheduled. Where a prisoner is required to attend another activity within the prison, this must be rescheduled where possible. Once notified of the appointment, prisons must ensure the prisoner’s NOMIS movements are checked to ensure there is no clash. Where there is a clash with an external appointment – e.g. court or hospital all relevant parties must be notified, and a decision must be made on how the vaccination will be issued.
* Prison staff must ensure that prisoners are available for their appointments and brought to them promptly at the appointed time.
* Healthcare colleagues will determine where the vaccination clinic takes place and must notify the prison and the prisoner of the vaccination arrangements.
* Movement of the prisoner to receive the vaccine should be in line with the establishment’s current movement protocols. Where such arrangements allow, prison staff will escort the prisoner to the appointment and remain with them for the duration (15 minute post-vaccine monitoring) then return them to their unit. Healthcare staff are required to set post-vaccination monitoring in place and will determine how this is delivered.
* Prison staff must ensure the safety of the identified prisoner from point of notification and should be aware that the vaccination appointment is a highly sought after and potentially tradable commodity in the way that other vaccines have not been, prisoners may be pressurised into selling or giving away an appointment and prisons must therefore ensure that the individual is kept safe and monitored from the point of notification.
* The prison member of staff may be required to verify the identity of the individual prisoner at the start of the appointment. Prison and health colleagues need to agree a system for verifying identification.
* The Health provider will record that the vaccination has been administered by updating the prisoner’s medical records. The prison should also record the completed vaccination for HMPPS purposes using the form provided
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1. **Post-vaccination management**

All prisoners receiving a vaccination must receive post-vaccination monitoring and the prison must have plans in place for post-vaccination management. This plan must be agreed at the point at which vaccinations commence within the establishment.

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| Prison responsibilities: post vaccine |
| * It is recommended that a prison key worker or other member of staff is designated to conduct regular welfare checks with the prisoner following the vaccination. Staff should refer any medical concerns to healthcare colleagues following the vaccination. Please note that any existing welfare checks can used for this purpose.
* The prison must ensure that the vaccination programme is prioritised and that where required other tasks are dropped to ensure the vaccination goes ahead whenever scheduled. Where a prisoner is required to attend another activity within the prison, this must be rescheduled where possible. Once notified of the appointment, prisons must ensure the prisoner’s NOMIS movements are checked to ensure there is no clash. Where there is a clash with an external appointment – e.g. court or hospital this should be discussed. It is expected that a court appearance will hold primacy over a vaccination which may therefore need to be rescheduled.
* The prison will ensure that the process for obtaining consent and facilitating the appointment are adhered to in the same way in advance of a second appointment. All other requirements outlined for the first appointment must be followed in the same way for the second appointment.
* The Prison will ensure that no changes are made to the management of a vaccinated individual based on receiving one or both vaccination doses. We await health advice on the impact of vaccinations on shielding, compartmentalisation and involvement in activities. We cannot automatically move a prisoner out of shielding as a result of vaccination, or that their regime arrangements can be altered on account of being vaccinated. All pre-existing arrangements must remain in place and prisoners who are shielding must be advised to continue to do so. Prisoners may sign themselves off shielding however the HMPPS waiver must be signed and their decision must be recorded on NOMIS, furthermore HMPPS staff must encourage the prison to continue shielding and record having done so.
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1. **Continuity of Care**

As part of the booking process for the COVID-19 vaccinations, providers must ensure that eligible prisoners can attend both appointments for both doses of the vaccine within the required timescales or are aware that they may have to receive the second dose in the community.

Existing systems for registering a prisoner with a GP practice in the community on release should be followed to enable vaccination appointments where a prisoner is released before their second vaccine.

For prisoners leaving the secure estate between the first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, their GP record will be updated to show their COVID-19 vaccination status.

**Further information**

Please note that if foreign nationals are in the eligible cohort to receive the vaccine, then they will be offered it, just like any other detainee/prisoner. This approach will also be taken for any IRC detainees who remain in detention for > 7days. If they are deported after their first dose, they will need to access vaccination services in their receiving country in line with their arrangements. Please note that there is no legal basis for continuing to detain someone to facilitate administration of a vaccine or for any other medical reason for that matter.

Any issues or queries arising from this guidance or in relation to the vaccination programme generally should be sent to Aine and Laura on aine.gawthorpe2@justice.gov.uk and Laura.lewis2@justice.gov.uk