**12.03.21 – JCVI Update**

Last night, the Health and Social Care Secretary published his response to additional Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation recommendations on vaccination prioritisation.

Both [letters](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/letter-from-the-health-and-social-care-secretary-on-covid-19-vaccination-phase-1-advice) outline that prisons officers are not classed as care and social care workers and will therefore continue to be vaccinated based on the same criteria as everyone else in the community.

The JCVI has recommended prisons officers can receive any ‘end of day’ vaccine remaining once the eligible prisoner cohort has been vaccinated. We are currently talking to the NHS about how this might be implemented but you will need to speak to your local healthcare provider about their views on how it will be managed specifically at your site. However, the numbers of prison residents who are eligible will be increasing so there is likely to only be a very small number of doses, if any at all.

If any of your staff have had their first vaccine in prison, they should speak to their GP about booking their second dose.

We should be encouraging all staff to have the vaccination when they are offered. It is important to make sure everyone knows there are a number of ways that people can be eligible – for example age, caring responsibilities, vulnerabilities, learning difficulties or certain volunteering activities outside of work. Please encourage your staff to update SOP, either if they had the vaccine or had it and decline. They don’t need to say why they were offered the vaccine or why they declined but it supports our understanding of the level of protection we have.

You can find out more information on the [vaccine section](https://intranet.noms.gsi.gov.uk/covid-19-coronavirus/staff-and-managers2/vaccines) of the intranet.

Please email [HMPPSVaccines@justice.gov.uk](mailto:HMPPSVaccines@justice.gov.uk) if you have any questions.