**Autumn vaccination programme – 2022 \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

The purpose of this briefing is to bring to the attention of Governors the **Autumn vaccination programme** which is being advised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Vaccination has been at the forefront of our ability to move to the current living with Covid position. Local work that has taken place in prisons by Governors and their teams has allowed us to move forward with reductions in testing, allowing us to change our focus from managing the pandemic to assuring that we are able to deliver the best for our staff and those in our care once again.

JVCI advise that older adults, and the most vulnerable continue to be at higher risk of severe COVID-19. These individuals will see that immunity from vaccination may wane before autumn. Therefore, as a precautionary strategy for 2022, JCVI advises an autumn dose, around 3 months after the last vaccine dose, should be offered to:

* adults aged 50 years and over.
* individuals aged 5 years and over who are in a clinical risk group.
* frontline health & social care staff.

The autumn booster programme for HMPPS will begin at the end of Sept/beginning of Oct 2022. This timeline may be different in each prison due to the number of prisoners within the eligible cohort and when their spring booster programme ended.

Governors are asked to ensure that their healthcare departments are supported in the roll out of this booster programme and that they continue to promote the importance of vaccinations against Covid 19 with both staff and prisoners.

If you have any further questions or require any support, please contact: HMPPSVaccines@justice.gov.uk