



## **COVID-10 Vaccination Briefing**

### **Summary**

Based on the recommendation from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) the Government has [today](#) approved use of the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine. The vaccine, which achieved a 95% efficacy rating during trials, will be made available across the UK, with the first 800,000 doses being rolled out from next week.

Following this announcement, the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) has confirmed that frontline health and care workers are considered a high priority for vaccination. Accordingly, JCVI is recommending that frontline health and care staff should be in the second cohort to be vaccinated – further details about the priority groups can be found [here](#). Within the health and care workforce, those workers who are at high risk of acquiring the infection, at high individual risk of developing serious disease or at risk of transmitting infection to multiple vulnerable persons or other staff in a healthcare environment, are considered of higher priority for vaccination than those at lower risk. JCVI recommend that this prioritisation should be taken into account during vaccine deployment.

Because there is a lack of data as yet on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy, JCVI is not currently recommending vaccination for women who are pregnant or who are planning a pregnancy within three months of the first dose.

### **NHS Staff Side Organisations position**

We want the quickest, safest roll out of the vaccine to staff, with those who feel they are particularly at risk supported to get fast access to the vaccination. Communications about the staff vaccination programme should ensure staff know there is no intention to make the vaccine mandatory and contain a link to the JCVI information about who is most at risk from COVID-19. In the event of more people applying to have the vaccine than available doses, we would also expect the JCVI criteria to be used to prioritise. Those leading the staff vaccination teams will also need to provide information about how those who are not currently at work or working from the work site are able to access the vaccine.

### **RCM Advice**

The RCM will be issuing further advice and FAQs for members as soon as more details become available about the imminent roll out of the vaccine for NHS staff. In the meantime, we strongly advise any midwives or MSWs who have yet to receive their flu vaccination to make arrangements to do so as soon as possible. This is because JCVI recommend a gap of seven days between receiving a flu vaccine and receiving the coronavirus vaccine.

In the meantime please raise with your manager any concerns that you may have about your health, particularly if you have underlying conditions, or about the procedure for being vaccinated.