

## Covid Vaccinations

### Who is considered a “Front-Line Health Worker”?

In order to help aid the mobilisation of the Covid Vaccination, practices have been asked to find out from their patient population which of them are a “Front-Line Health Worker.”

This document will help you decide if this applies to you;

You should read this document CAREFULLY and then, if your work fits any of the following categories you should TEXT back the word HEALTH from the text we sent you.

Please DO NOT call the practice to seek advice about this matter. WE WILL CALL YOU when the time arises. You will be asked to provide proof that you fit this employment criteria when we call and when you have the vaccination.

### **Front-Line Health Workers are:**

#### Social care workers

This would include:

- those working in long-stay residential and nursing care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality.
- social care staff directly involved in the care of their patients or clients
- others involved directly in delivering social care such that they and vulnerable patients/clients are at increased risk of exposure

Young people age 16-18 years, who are employed in, studying or in training for health and social care work should be offered vaccination alongside their colleagues if a suitable vaccine is available.

Younger people who are taking part in health and social care work as volunteers, interns or for the purposes of work experience, should make all efforts to avoid exposure to infection; **vaccination would not normally be required.**

#### Healthcare staff

All frontline healthcare staff who are eligible for seasonal influenza vaccination should be offered COVID-19 vaccine.

This includes the following groups;

- Staff involved in direct patient care.
- Staff who have frequent face-to-face clinical contact with patients and who are directly involved in patient care in either secondary or primary care/community settings.
- Doctors,
- dentists,
- midwives
- nurses,

- paramedics
- ambulance drivers,
- pharmacists,
- optometrists,
- occupational therapists,
- physiotherapists
- radiographers.

It should also include those working in independent, voluntary and non-standard healthcare settings such as;

- hospices,
- Community-based mental health or addiction services.
- Temporary staff, including those working in the COVID-19 vaccination programme,

Students, trainees and volunteers who are working with patients must also be included.

**Non-clinical staff in secondary or primary care/community healthcare settings;**

**This includes**

- non-clinical ancillary staff who may have social contact with patients but are not directly involved in patient care (such as receptionists, ward clerks, porters and cleaners.)
- Laboratory and pathology staff
- Hospital-based laboratory and mortuary staff who frequently handle SARS-CoV-2 or collect or handle potentially infected specimens, including respiratory, gastrointestinal and blood specimens should be eligible as they may also have social contact with patients. This may also include cleaners, porters, secretaries and receptionists in laboratories.
- Frontline funeral operatives and mortuary technicians / embalmers are both at risk of exposure and likely to spend a considerable amount of time in care homes and hospital settings where they may also expose multiple patients.
- Staff working in non-hospital-based laboratory and those academic or commercial research laboratories who handle clinical specimens or potentially infected samples will be able to use effective protective equipment in their work and should be at low risk of exposure.