

Public Health
County Hall
Market Road
Chelmsford
Essex
CM1 1QH



Date: 11 August 2021

Dear Colleague,

Are you worried about having your COVID-19 Vaccination?

The law in England is changing; this means that from 11 November all care home staff must be full vaccinated against COVID 19 if they want to continue working in a care home. This is the same for all new staff wanting to work in care homes.

The very last date for care home workers to receive a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine is 16 September 2021. This means you have just 5 weeks to make your decision about receiving the vaccine.

I know this is not an easy decision and we want to make sure that all care home workers have an opportunity to talk about what is worrying them with expert health professionals. I hope that by providing clear and accurate information about the vaccines, and the benefits and risks associated with them, it will be easier for care home workers to make an informed choice.

88% of care workers in Essex have received their first dose of vaccine

The COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective. This has been proven by the dramatic reductions in hospital admissions and deaths following the vaccination of 40 million people in the UK. The overwhelming majority of care home staff (88% of care workers in Essex) have received their first dose.

The vaccines reduce the risk of passing the infection onto vulnerable residents in care homes which is why it is so important for care home staff to be vaccinated. COVID-19 infections are three times lower in double vaccinated people, according to the latest Imperial College REACT-1 study.

I do understand that many people have their own personal concerns about the vaccine which need to be understood. I would like to offer you the chance to have a one-to-one conversation with a GP about this, which can be organised at your convenience by contacting the Essex Wellbeing Service (EWS) on 0300 303 9988 or by email provide.essexwellbeing@nhs.net. I am also happy to discuss any worries or concerns with you myself via email at mike.gogarty@essex.gov.uk.

Getting more information online

If you are looking for more information or have questions about the requirement for care home staff to be vaccinated against COVID-19, then Essex County Council (ECC) will be holding a Q&A session with Danny Showell, Public Health Consultant, on Wednesday 18

August 2021 to provide further information and answer any additional concerns or queries.
[12:00 to 13:00 – [Please click here to attend the meeting](#)]

The Department of Health Social Care (DHSC) will also be holding a webinar for care home managers and providers, on Tuesday 17 August 2021 from 12:30 to 13:30. You can sign up to the webinar via this link: <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/guidance-for-covid-19-vaccination-of-people-workingdeployed-in-care-homes-tickets-165778153921>

I would like to be vaccinated. Where can I get my vaccination?

If you have not had an opportunity to get your first or second dose yet, you can access the COVID-19 vaccination via walk-in clinics across Essex:

- NE Essex: <https://sneevaccine.org.uk/location-of-walk-in-clinics>
- Mid & South Essex: <https://www.essexcovidvaccine.nhs.uk/coronavirus-vaccine/walk-in-vaccination-clinics/>
- West Essex: <https://www.myhealthsessex.co.uk/walk-in-centres>

You can book an appointment through your GP or the National Booking Service:
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

You can also book by calling 119 free of charge and speak to someone who can book the vaccine appointment for you. You can also speak to a translator if you need to.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do to keep care home residents safe.

With best wishes,

Mike Gogarty