

Covid-19 vaccination programme: reduced eligibility for winter 2025/26

Advice for vaccination providers



The following lines have been developed to assist vaccination providers in responding to potential queries that they may receive from the public or other health professionals in relation to the reduced COVID-19 vaccination programme

Why has JCVI advised a reduced autumn 2025 vaccination programme, i.e. only for older adults and individuals who are immunosuppressed?

- The primary aim of the COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to be prevention of serious disease (hospitalisation and/or mortality) arising from COVID-19.
- Over the last four years, there has been increased immunity to COVID-19 through vaccination and recovery from infection. COVID-19 is no longer considered a pandemic and for most people infection is mild.
- Expert assessments increasingly indicate that the greatest benefits are obtained with programmes targeting the most vulnerable in our society, i.e. oldest adults and individuals who are immunosuppressed. These are the 2 groups who continue to be at higher risk of serious disease, including mortality.
- This is why the JCVI has advised that from autumn 2025, a COVID-19 vaccination dose should be offered to only those at greatest risk of serious disease and who are therefore most likely to benefit from vaccination. These cohorts are the same as in previous spring campaigns including spring 2025.