



Department
of Health &
Social Care

CARE

To:

Local Authority Chief Executives
Directors of Adult Social Services
Older adult care home providers
Older adult care home managers

39 Victoria Street
Westminster
London
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14th April 2021

Dear care colleagues

Consultation on making COVID-19 vaccination a condition of deployment in older adult care homes

Since December 2020, the NHS has been rolling out the biggest vaccination programme in its history, to help protect people against COVID-19.

As you know, residents and staff in care homes for older adults were the top priority for vaccination. I would like to thank you for the incredible work done to reassure and encourage both care home residents and your colleagues, working in social care, to take up the vaccine.

Vaccination is a safe and effective way of preventing the spread of COVID-19 and most care home workers have now taken it up. As of 4th April 2021, almost 79% of staff working in older adult care homes in England had received their first vaccination. However, there remains significant variation at a regional, local and individual care home level.

The Social Care Working Group of SAGE has advised that an uptake rate of 80% in staff and 90% in residents, in each individual care home setting, would be needed to provide a minimum level of protection against outbreaks of COVID-19.

We are considering taking steps to require care providers to deploy only staff who have been vaccinated, in care homes where residents include older adults. This measure would be intended to protect the people most at risk in our society - around 90% of those who died from COVID-19 were people over 70.

This is a complex and important issue, which will raise a variety of questions across the sector. For that reason, we have launched a five-week consultation, so we can gather a wide range of perspectives from across the care home sector.

I would like to invite you all to take part in the consultation and to put forward your views on the proposed policy, which you can do [here](#). The consultation closes on 21st May.

Yours sincerely,

Stuart Miller
Director of Adult Social Care
Delivery