

< Effective 05 April 2023 Review Date 1 September 2023>

Public Health Agency Guidance for vaccination in care homes during COVID / Flu like illness outbreaks

Purpose

The aim of this guidance is to support decision-making about proceeding with COVID 19 vaccination in care homes in Northern Ireland with an ongoing outbreak. It helps to ensure residents can receive the vaccines they need to protect them from these viruses. It should be used by care home managers and community pharmacy vaccination teams.

Can a community pharmacy attend and offer vaccination at a care home where an outbreak of COVID and/or Flu like illness is ongoing?

Usually yes, provided this decision has been subject to a joint risk assessment by the care home and the Public Health Agency (PHA) duty room.

Who is responsible for communicating the outcome of the risk assessment to community pharmacy?

It is the responsibility of the care home to communicate with the community pharmacy in an outbreak situation and advise them of the decision to proceed or to postpone vaccination.

Can an individual who has tested positive for COVID-19 be vaccinated?

Yes. Residents may be vaccinated provided they are well, do not have any symptoms at the time of vaccination, and that infection control procedures can be maintained. The vaccine reduces the risk of serious illness, hospitalisation and death.

What should be considered when assessing if vaccination should proceed in a care home with an outbreak?

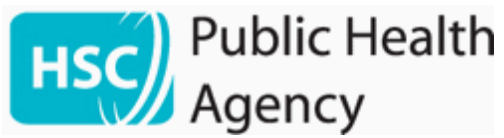
The care home should contact the PHA duty room for advice on PHA Health Protection Duty Room (HPDR) at PHA.DutyRoom@hscni.net. A risk assessment will then be carried out and a joint decision is made about proceeding with vaccination during the outbreak.

Can a care home undergoing terminal clean proceed with vaccination?

Yes.

Can a care home with a recently closed outbreak proceed with vaccination?

Yes.



Got a question? For further information contact PHA Health Protection Duty Room (HPDR) at PHA.DutyRoom@hscni.net