

14th Jan 2021

Access to vaccines for clients of Occupational Health Providers

The Society of Occupational Medicine works with UK Occupational Health (OH) providers. It is proud of the role of OH in keeping UK plc functioning.

SOM has released a statement on the role of OH in vaccine delivery at <https://www.som.org.uk/som-council-statement-regarding-covid-19-vaccine-and-jcvi-position>

OH has been key to the response to the Covid-19 pandemic, from supporting NHS employees to enabling essential workplaces to stay open. OH companies train and manage a dedicated and highly skilled clinical workforce to support UK companies with Covid-19 testing, return to work and support for Long Covid-19. OH teams in NHS trusts have been involved in vaccine delivery in phase 1 for health and social care staff as per the priority group 2 (see overleaf).

SOM is aware that OH providers are being asked if they can provide Covid-19 vaccines to OH clients more generally. The Joint Committee on Vaccines and Immunisations has set the priority groups for receiving vaccinations as overleaf. These include the elderly, (in decreasing age cohorts), the clinically vulnerable and frontline health and social care workers. The SOM is lobbying for other essential worker groups to be included based on the importance of their work to society and the need to protect certain groups.

Only NHS authorised providers will be supplied with the vaccine. Currently all stocks of the 3 MHRA approved vaccines are controlled by Government. For these reasons it is not currently possible for OH Providers to provide a Covid-19 vaccination service outside current Government delivery. However should the priority groups change to include other occupations, OH companies would be able to administer the vaccines for their clients.

Note: Covid-19 vaccines for those authorised by the NHS to deliver the programme will be made available for ordering on the InForm. *Green Book, Provisional guidance subject to MHRA approval of vaccine supply; Chapter 14a Pg 16.*

There may be opportunity to give vaccines to occupational groups in phase 2 and SOM will continue to lobby for this.



The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination

The age-based prioritisation for the COVID-19 vaccine will include **around 99% of people at risk of dying** from the disease

- 1.** residents in a **care home** for older adults and their carers.
- 2.** all those **80 years of age and over** and frontline health and social care workers
- 3.** all those **75 years of age and over**
- 4.** all those **70 years of age and over** and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
- 5.** all those **65 years of age and over**
- 6.** all individuals aged **16 - 64 years with underlying health conditions** which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
- 7.** all those **60 years of age and over**
- 8.** all those **55 years of age and over**
- 9.** all those **50 years of age and over**

