

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## **TO ALL PRACTICES IN SURREY AND SUSSEX LMCs**

Dear Colleagues

### **Covid-19 vaccination scheduling and PHE delivery and surveillance strategy**

The LMC is aware of the continuing concerns that many colleagues have in relation to the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation [JCVI] decision to recommend the scheduling of both Pfizer and AstraZeneca [AZ] second dose vaccinations to as close as possible to twelve weeks after delivery of the first dose. This approach was immediately supported by the UK Chief Medical Officers, and the Academy of Medical Royal Colleges have also now issued a statement supporting this approach.

The GPC has written to both the GMC and CQC as the professional and system regulators to seek confirmation that by following this professional and authoritative guidance, no GP would be inappropriately criticised for doing so. Confirmation of this has been provided and I can provide the relevant letters if any colleague wishes to read them.

Public Health England has also published a :

- Covid-19 vaccination delivery plan, and
- Vaccine surveillance strategy.

These are available at:

[UK COVID-19 vaccines delivery plan - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccines-delivery-plan)

and

[COVID-19 vaccine surveillance strategy \(publishing.service.gov.uk\)](https://publishing.service.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccine-surveillance-strategy)

respectively

Colleagues may also be aware of the publicity at the weekend over suggestions that NHS England may have advised GPs to discard vaccine rather than offer a second dose.

Clearly this advice, if given, is wholly inappropriate and I am not aware of any colleague receiving such advice within the SSLMCs Confederation, nor do I believe any local NHS England or CCG colleagues, who have been very pro-active in supporting the Covid-19 vaccination programme, would do so.

Local Medical Committees for  
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It is clear however that, despite the disruption and distress this causes, it is no longer appropriate to schedule, by which I mean booking appointments for, second dose vaccinations. Patients should be aware and told GP practices are acting on the basis of professional advice in rescheduling these appointments.

However, it is also unethical and immoral to discard Covid-19 vaccine; accordingly LMC advice is that if during the course of an operational vaccination clinic it becomes apparent to the clinic organiser that as a result of DNAs and the vagaries of the “extra dose” process there will be additional potential vaccines to give, clinics should keep a shortlist of eligible patients or staff who can be contacted at short notice and who are available and able to attend the closing phase of the clinic to receive a vaccination. These patients or staff should be then be invited to receive a vaccination, recorded on Pinnacle, to avoid any wastage. I am confident in relying on colleagues’ clinical judgement and the professional principle of beneficence in providing such advice.

With best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'JP' followed by a long horizontal line extending to the right.

**Dr Julius Parker**  
Chief Executive