



Frontline Health and Social Care Worker Autumn/Winter vaccines (COVID-19 and influenza): Trust guidance on data collection of vaccine uptake

Written by:

PHA Vaccine Surveillance Team

2023/24 version

12 September 2023

Version V01

Change history

Version Number	Change Details	Date
V01	This data collection guidance replaces the <i>Frontline Health and Social Worker seasonal influenza vaccine campaign: Trust guidance on data collection of vaccine uptake</i> guidance produced for previous influenza vaccination campaigns.	12 September 2023

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Monitoring of vaccine uptake

The PHA is responsible for monitoring COVID-19 and influenza vaccine uptake of Trust-employed frontline health and social care workers (HSCWs) on behalf of the Department of Health (DoH). A definition of frontline based on the available data has been adapted for reporting purposes only. Trusts should offer the COVID-19 and flu vaccines to all HSCWs that are considered frontline, i.e. involved with direct patient contact, as per the [COVID-19 Autumn/Winter Booster Vaccination Programme 2023 letter](#) and the [Seasonal Influenza Vaccination Programme 2023/24 letter](#).

In accordance with the programme letters, all HSC organisations (Trusts, GPs, community pharmacies) are responsible for entering the administration of COVID-19 and flu vaccination of frontline HSCWs on to the Vaccine Management System (VMS) in line with the guidance on the VMS portal.

Data extracted from the VMS by PHA will be used to determine vaccine uptake for the frontline HSCW COVID-19 and flu vaccination programmes.

Purpose of guidance

The purpose of this guidance is to provide clear instruction to Trusts and NIAS on the data collection process for the monitoring of uptake in frontline HSCWs as part of the Autumn/Winter COVID-19 and influenza vaccine programmes.

In Northern Ireland, unlike the rest of the United Kingdom, Health and Social Care are integrated so social care workers (SCWs) are part of the frontline Trust-employed workforce. It is important that both health care workers (HCWs) and SCWs are vaccinated and monitored, and uptake between the two will be reported separately to enable uptake to be calculated for each group.

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Definitions for data collection purposes only

The staff group options available to record on VMS have been defined as frontline HCWs, frontline SCWs or non-frontline.

The following definitions apply for surveillance data collection and reporting purposes only. The relevant campaign/programme letter and Green Book recommendations should be followed when considering which staff to vaccinate.

Frontline health care workers (HCWs): Ambulance, Medical & Dental, Nursing & Midwifery and Professional & Technical. These staff groups are considered frontline HCWs as the majority of job roles within the group will have direct contact with patients.

Frontline social care workers (SCWs): Social Services. This staff group is considered frontline SCW as the majority of job roles within the group will have direct contact with patients.

Non-frontline: Admin & Clerical, Estates, Support Service & User Experience. These staff groups are considered to have less job roles involving direct patient contact.

The following table details example job roles (this is not exhaustive) which should be recorded under each VMS staff group and whether this group will be reported as frontline for surveillance purposes. The corresponding denominator for each group is also listed. **Of note, nurse support staff should be recorded within the staff group Nursing and Midwifery when recording a vaccination on VMS for a person with this job role. Ambulance is now an available option (from 2023/24) for recording staff group on VMS (see table below).**

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Table 1. Staff groups collected on VMS with example job roles, denominator and indication of whether frontline or not for reporting purposes only

VMS recorded staff group (numerator)	HSC Workforce census occupational family (denominator)	Frontline? (surveillance definition for reporting)	Example job roles
Ambulance	Ambulance	Yes	Paramedics, emergency medical technician
Medical & Dental	Medical & Dental (including NIMDTA trainees)	Yes	Doctors (including junior doctors in training) and dentists
Nursing & Midwifery	Registered Nursing & Midwifery And Nurse Support Staff	Yes	Registered nurses and midwives, nurse support staff roles
Professional & Technical	Professional & Technical	Yes	Allied health professionals (e.g. physiotherapists, occupational therapists), other health professionals (e.g. psychologists), and technical or scientific staff (e.g. biomedical scientists and pharmacists)
Social Services	Social Services (excluding domiciliary care)	Yes	Social workers, social care staff
Admin & Clerical	Administration & Clerical	No	Medical/personal secretaries, solicitors, chief executives, directors, senior managers
Estates	Estates Services	No	Estates officer, groundsman, joiner, electrician
Support Service & User Experience	Support Services	No	Domestic services, catering, porter, driver and security

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Calculating vaccine uptake of frontline HSCWs

Numerator: the number of Trust-employed frontline HSCWs working in the Trust at any time during the programme who received the vaccine* during this time. Vaccinations must be recorded on VMS and identifiable as a Trust-employed frontline HSCW to be included in numerator.

Denominator: the number of frontline HSCWs on 31st March 2023 as per the Northern Ireland Health and Social Care (HSC) Workforce Census March 2023. Further information and the results of the workforce census are available on health-ni.gov.uk.

Vaccine uptake of frontline HSCWs is the number of Trust-employed frontline HSCWs receiving a vaccination during the programme/campaign as a proportion of the number employed at the date of the latest HSC Workforce census on 31st March 2023.

*Uptake will be calculated for both COVID-19 and flu vaccines.

$$\text{Vaccine Uptake of frontline HSCWs (\%)} = \frac{\text{Number employed in Trust that received vaccine at any time in 2023/24 (numerator)}}{\text{Number employed in the Trust on HSC Workforce census date (denominator)}}$$

Reporting of vaccine uptake

Vaccine uptake of both programmes will be reported on the COVID-19 and Influenza Vaccination Surveillance in Northern Ireland dashboard throughout the programme. Access and a link to this dashboard will be provided to relevant colleagues once the programmes commence.

Vaccine uptake will also be published in the [COVID-19 Epidemiological Bulletin \(PHA\)](#) and the [Influenza Weekly Surveillance Bulletin \(PHA\)](#).

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Contacts

If you have any queries regarding the seasonal influenza vaccine uptake data collection process that are not address in this guidance or the programme letters, please email: Vaccines.Surveillance@hscni.net

If you have any general queries regarding the autumn/winter COVID-19 booster vaccination programme or the seasonal influenza programme for health care workers, please email: Pha.immunisation@hscni.net