

HEIW/ Welsh Government Position Statement Healthcare students' access to COVID-19 vaccination

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This position statement confirms students' individual access to COVID-19 vaccination in line with priority group scheduling

NHS Wales continues to offer a vaccine to individuals who are at increased risk of severe illness from Coronavirus (COVID-19), based on the recommendations from the UK's Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations.

Populations who are [prioritised](#) for vaccination include [frontline health and social care workers](#). This includes healthcare students who are designated as [key workers](#) involved in the delivery of care as part of their programme of learning.

Students in practice placements

All healthcare students (nursing, midwifery, allied health profession, healthcare science, medical and physician associate students) undertaking practice placements will be offered the COVID-19 vaccine alongside their professional colleagues and in line with the priority group scheduling of individual health and care settings.

Students will be given the relevant information by placement providers to book a first vaccine and be signposted to a vaccination centre. They will then receive an automatic recall for the second vaccine. Once students have confirmation of a booking to receive the vaccine, they will still be able to attend this appointment even if their placement comes to an end in the meantime.

As students receive their COVID-19 vaccine doses, they should record this within their All Wales Safe-Return Placement Passport: <https://heiw.nhs.wales/files/covid-19-placement-recovery-student-passport-form/>

Students who access their first Covid-19 vaccine in one placement area but are allocated to a placement a significant distance away when their second vaccine is due

Healthcare students and medical trainees will be offered their first Covid-19 vaccination in line with arrangements in their initial allocated placement area. Students should **normally** be booked to receive their second dose at the **same centre** as the initial dose, even if the location of their placement is anticipated

to change in the interim period. However, a small number of students may be on placement at a significantly distanced location from where they received their initial vaccination. In these circumstances a student should contact the new placement Health Board area's local immunisation team to arrange the second vaccination.

Students who are allocated placements to non-NHS practice settings

Students undertaking placements in non-NHS settings will be included in the relevant local organisation vaccination arrangements. Students should discuss their vaccination booking with the manager of the placement they are allocated to and be given appointments in line with local organisational priority schedules.

Individuals in university roles who work within clinical practice to support student education

Clinical tutors/practice educators employed by universities, who supervise healthcare students in practice *as the predominant part of their substantive role* will be included in Health Board vaccination programmes. These individuals should arrange a vaccination booking with their Health Board Departmental lead in line with priority group vaccination schedules.

Further information:

Vaccination strategy for Wales: including priorities, vaccination infrastructure and vaccination communication strategy.

<https://gov.wales/covid-19-vaccination-strategy>

Public Health Wales vaccination information

<https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/>