

## LMC Coronavirus Update April 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021

### **Frequently Asked Questions: MHRA and JCVI guidance on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and very rare clotting disorders**

This NHSE/I guidance [FAQs document](#) should be read alongside the [operational note of 7 April](#), the [JCVI advice](#) and the [MHRA advice](#).

### **JCVI announcement regarding COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy and next steps**

Following discussions about pregnant women and the COVID vaccine, [NHSE have written to local vaccination sites](#) following the update from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) in relation to COVID-19 vaccination during pregnancy, and actions to take.

### **Comparing COVID-19 Vaccine Schedule Combinations – Com-COV**

This item comes at short notice but HUTH have just been given the green light for this urgent public health study which will be enrolling men and women aged 50 years and over who have already had one dose of a COVID-19 vaccine between 25th January 2021 and 20th March 2021.

They are enrolling from all ethnicities and would particularly welcome participants from the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) community. They would like the people in the trial to be as representative of the population as a whole as possible, particularly in terms of ethnicity and comorbidities, so people with stable chronic diseases can be included (there are exclusion criteria for severe disease e.g. active cancer, significant immunosuppression, liver or renal failure etc.).

There will be 5 study visits, plus an extra visit if a participant gets COVID despite vaccination. The study visits will be at Castle Hill Hospital. Time and travel is paid at a rate of £45 per visit. Participants need to be able to access the internet and read and write in English.

The main results should be available by July, so this is an opportunity to contribute to vaccine science with real-world impact in a short timeframe.

Prospective participants need to enrol in the online system by Sunday so they can be screened and offered appointments. Full details and recruitment information can be found at: <https://comcovstudy.org.uk/participate-hull-comcov2>

### **Vaccinating during Ramadan**

NHSE/I has published guidance on supporting [COVID-19 vaccine uptake during the Islamic month of Ramadan](#) which began on Monday 12 April 2021. The guidance aims to help vaccination sites build confidence, reduce barriers to access and support the uptake of the COVID-19 vaccine amongst Muslim communities during the month of Ramadan.

**Free COVID-19 PPE scheme extended until the end of March 2022**

The Government is extending the provision of free COVID-19 PPE to health and social care providers until the end of March 2022. Following the previous announcement of free PPE provision until the end of June 2021, the scheme will now be extended to the end of March 2022 as the expectation of clinical experts is that usage will remain high throughout the next financial year. This will ensure that general practice can continue to access rigorously tested and high-quality PPE. Providers should continue to access COVID-19 PPE via their current distribution channels.