

10 June 2020

Dear Colleagues

Immunisation Training for Nurses during COVID-19 Pandemic

Immunisation training is an essential requirement included as a core element in immunisation contracts and service specifications.

The Section 7A core service specification for the national immunisation programmes states that the provider has a duty to ensure that contracted staff are fully competent and trained in accordance with the national immunisation training standards. It also states that commissioners must ensure that the provider adheres to the requirement that 'professionals involved in administering the vaccine have the necessary skills, competencies and annually updated training about vaccine administration' and that providers (employers) should make regular training and development routinely available for their staff.

For the full immunisation training standards document please see link below:

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/679824/Training_standards_and_core_curriculum_immunisation.pdf

Unfortunately, due to current COVID-19 restrictions, training facilitators across Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire have had to cancel all face to face immunisation training sessions for the foreseeable future. Therefore, to ensure that staff can maintain competencies and meet immunisation training and PGD requirements, the Screening and Immunisation Team have put together the following guidance for practitioners as a temporary measure until such a time that immunisation training sessions can recommence.

Those new to immunising: Should access the Immunisation e-learning package which covers the whole of the core curriculum, this is available at <https://www.e-lfh.org.uk>

This should be combined with work-based learning with an experienced immuniser using the RCN Competency Framework assessment checklist. When the new member of staff has the opportunity to attend a face to face course, we would still recommend they did this, because immunisers find many benefits from attending face to face courses.

Experienced immunisers: Should continue to use existing online resources. Updates to the general immunisation package and flu e-learning should be in place by July 2020.

Updating should be seen as a continuous ongoing process rather than purely as a one-off annual requirement. Immunisers should ensure they keep up to date by subscribing to the monthly PHE publication [Vaccine Update](#) and reading the 'Information for Healthcare Practitioner' documents on the PHE website, relevant journal articles and any letters and information materials from DHSC, NHS England and PHE that become available. They can also do the assessment sections of the e-learning programme and self-assess using the competency assessment tool to identify if there are any areas where they need to update or further their knowledge.

Immunisation Training for HCAs during COVID-19 Pandemic

The recommendations around competency assessment and supervision detailed in the [National minimum standards and core curriculum for Immunisation training of healthcare support workers](#) should continue to be followed. In the absence of any face to face training being available HCAs can use the e-learning programme

Please contact the Screening and Immunisation Team at ENGLAND.SCRIMMS@nhs.net for further support or if you have any immunisation queries.