

**From the Chief Medical Officer  
Prof Sir Michael McBride**



Department of  
**Health**

An Roinn Sláinte

Máinnstrie O Poustie

[www.health-ni.gov.uk](http://www.health-ni.gov.uk)

**HSS(MD) 31/2022**

**FOR ACTION**

Chief Executives HSC Trusts for onward cascade to  
Medical Directors  
Chief Executives, Public Health Agency/ Deputy Secretary  
SPPG  
GP Medical Advisers, SPPG  
All General Practitioners and GP Locums (for onward  
distribution to practice staff)  
Director of Pharmacy at SPPG (for cascade to prescribing  
advisers and community pharmacies)

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BT4 3SQ

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Our Ref: HSS(MD) 31/2022

Date: 10 June 2022

**PLEASE SEE ATTACHED FULL CIRCULATION LIST**

Dear Colleague

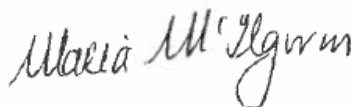
**COVID-19 SPRING BOOSTER VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

1. This is an update on the spring booster programme to clarify the ongoing arrangements.
2. As stated in HSS 13/2022 the spring booster was intended to run from late March to the end of May. In line with the addendum issued on 24 May it was extended to include all those who turned 75 years of age on or by the 30 June 2022. We appreciate that for a number of reasons it has not been possible to complete all spring boosters by the end of May, therefore this letter confirms that any GPs and community pharmacies who need to continue to vaccinate in June should proceed and claim the normal item of service fee for the vaccinations administered.
3. In addition, for those people who were eligible for the spring booster i.e. they were born on or before the 30 June 1947, or they are currently immunosuppressed, they will remain eligible to receive the spring booster after the 30 June 2022 but will not be actively called.
4. Should someone in this category seek the spring booster after the 30 June they should be directed to a Trust led clinic or a participating community pharmacy where the vaccinator should consider the personal circumstances of that

individual. This is particularly important for someone who is immunosuppressed and who may have only recently become eligible for the booster as a result of their ongoing treatment etc. The individual seeking vaccination should be advised that if they receive their spring booster dose over the period July to September 2022 it is likely to delay when they would become eligible for the expected autumn booster.

5. Anyone who turns 75 years of age from the 1 July 2022 onwards will not be eligible for the spring booster

Yours sincerely



**Prof Sir Michael McBride**  
**Chief Medical Officer**

**Maria McIlgorm**  
**Chief Nursing Officer**

**Mrs Cathy Harrison**  
**Chief Pharmaceutical Officer**

### **Circulation List**

Director of Public Health/Medical Director, Public Health Agency (*for onward distribution to all relevant health protection staff*)

Assistant Director Public Health (Health Protection), Public Health Agency

Director of Nursing, Public Health Agency

Assistant Director of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, SPPG (*for onward distribution to Community Pharmacies*)

Directors of Pharmacy HSC Trusts

Director of Social Care and Children, SPPG

Family Practitioner Service Leads, SPPG (*for cascade to GP Out of Hours services*)

Medical Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Consultants, Occupational Health Physicians and School Medical Leads*)

Nursing Directors, HSC Trusts (*for onward distribution to all Community Nurses, and Midwives*)

Directors of Children's Services, HSC Trusts

RQIA (*for onward transmission to all independent providers including independent hospitals*)

Joe Brogan, Assistant Director, Head of Pharmacy and Medicines Management, Strategic Planning and Performance Group (SPPG) (*for onward distribution to SPPG Pharmacy and Medicines Management Team and community pharmacists*)

Regional Medicines Information Service, Belfast HSC Trust

Regional Pharmaceutical Procurement Service, Northern HSC Trust

Professor Donna Fitzsimons, Head of School of Nursing and Midwifery QUB

Professor Sonja McIlpatrick, Head of School of Nursing, University of Ulster

Heather Finlay, CEC

Donna Gallagher, Open University

Professor Paul McCarron, Head of School of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences, UU

Professor Colin McCoy, Head of School, School of Pharmacy, QUB

Professor Colin Adair, Postgraduate Pharmacy Dean, NI Centre for Pharmacy

