



18 August 2021

Dear social care colleague

We want to say a big thank you for all your work to care for and protect people in Norfolk and Waveney. You are valued and appreciated - not just by us and those you support, but by your community who recognise the crucial role you are playing during the pandemic.

**COVID-19 cases are rising** - Even though COVID-19 rules have changed, we all need to take care. COVID-19 cases are increasing, so please keep up the highest standards of infection prevention and control in your care home. It's important to use the correct PPE and remember; hands, face, space and fresh air.

**Vaccinations** - The best way to protect yourself, your family and those you care for is for you to be double vaccinated. The great news is that most local care workers are already vaccinated.

From 11 November 2021 the law will require everyone working in a care home to be fully vaccinated. This includes people like doctors and other professionals who visit care homes. People who have special medical reasons for not getting a COVID19 vaccination will not be affected by this new law. The government says that the law might be extended to include other health and care staff in future.

**Information and advice** - We want to support everyone to carry on working in the roles they love while staying safe. If you are worried about getting vaccinated, please talk to your doctor as soon as you can. They will be able to answer your questions about the vaccine and your health.

**Pregnancy** - There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccinations are harmful to your baby and being vaccinated now can reduce the risk of contracting COVID-19 during pregnancy. Information to support you if you have any questions around pregnancy, breast feeding or planning a family is available here:

<https://www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-fags/covid-19-vaccinations>

If you are worried about time off to get vaccinated, or because of side-effects, please talk to your manager. Getting the vaccine is easier than ever. You can walk-in to local clinics where no appointment is necessary. Find the locations and vaccines available here: <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/WalkIn> Thank you again for all that you're doing.

**Tim Weller**  
Head of Integrated Quality Service