

COVID Vaccination Policy: Updated 31/03/2021

Introduction:

It's 2021 and the Government is currently rolling out its national COVID-19 vaccination programme. This policy sets out GO Kids's stance on employees being vaccinated and how the vaccination programme impacts our workforce.

COVID-19 vaccination programme:

Vaccinations are free of charge on the NHS. They are currently (March 2021) being administered according to a priority list at vaccination centres, including some hospitals, sports stadiums, conference centres and GP surgeries.

We encourage employees who are not registered with a GP to do so as soon as they can. See government guidance on <https://www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/gps/how-to-register-with-a-gp-surgery/> for information on how to do this.

Individual's decision:

We respectfully ask all employees that, when a coronavirus vaccination becomes available, you take the opportunity to be vaccinated. We understand that this is ultimately your personal choice, but we encourage everyone to make an informed decision by:

- reading up about COVID-19 vaccinations via official sources;
- paying attention to the information the NHS provides when offering a vaccine; and
- being wary of misinformation around COVID-19 vaccinations put out by unreliable sources.

Further information:

Information on the national COVID-19 vaccination programme is set out at <https://www.gov.uk/health-and-social-care/health-protection-immunisation> which includes details of:

- the priority list for vaccination;
- vaccination of specific groups, such as pregnant individuals and older people; and
- what to expect after your vaccination, including guidance on returning to normal activities; and:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/> which includes details of:

- who can get a vaccination;
- the safety and effectiveness of being vaccinated; and
- what to expect after your vaccination, including potential side effects.

In addition, information on local arrangements in Scotland is available at:

<https://www.nhsinform.scot/healthy-living/immunisation/vaccines/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine>

Time off for vaccination appointments:

Employees can take unpaid time off to attend COVID-19 vaccination appointments under our policy on time off for medical and dental appointments (within the staff handbook).

Employees should obtain approval from the Project Manager in advance of taking time off to attend a COVID-19 vaccination appointment. They should give the Project Manager as much notice as they can that they would like to take time off for this purpose.

The Project Manager may, at their discretion, ask employees to produce evidence of their appointment (for example an appointment card or email/text inviting them to a COVID-19 vaccination appointment).

Return to work following a vaccination appointment:

Following a vaccination, employees should be able to resume their normal activities, including working, as long as they feel well.

This means that employees should return to work as soon as they can after their vaccination appointment. If it is not practical for the employee to return to work immediately after their

appointment, for example if it is towards the end of their working day, they should discuss alternative arrangements with the Project Manager.

However, employees who are unwell after receiving a coronavirus vaccination should take sickness absence in the usual way. Under the Company's short-term sickness absence policy, they should notify the Project Manager by telephone as soon as reasonably practicable, preferably before they are due to start work and in any event no later than one hour after they are due to begin work.

Treating colleagues with respect:

We recognise that the subject of the COVID-19 vaccination programme can be divisive and lead to the expression of strong opinions. However, employees must remain responsible and respectful when communicating with their colleagues about COVID-19 vaccinations. Employees must not act against colleagues in a way that could amount to bullying or harassment, for example mocking a colleague's views on COVID-19 vaccinations or foisting their own views on COVID-19 vaccinations on others.

The harassment or intimidation of colleagues because of their views or individual circumstances may lead to disciplinary action, up to and including dismissal.

Any employee who is offended by, or concerned about, a colleague's behaviour in this regard should raise the matter with management and/or can raise a formal complaint via our grievance procedure.