

SELF-REGISTER AS AN UNPAID CARER TO RECEIVE YOUR COVID-19 VACCINE

Dear Sir/Madam,

Please accept our apologies if your caring circumstances have changed recently. We recognise that this may be a difficult time for many carers.

You are being contacted as you are registered with your local carer or young carer service, as an unpaid carer. Thank you for the essential support you continue to provide to those you care for. Your contribution is greatly valued by NHS Scotland.

In order to support and sustain caring relationships during the pandemic, the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has recommended that unpaid carers should be invited to receive their COVID-19 vaccination as part of priority group 6.

This includes those who are eligible for a carer's allowance, or those who are the sole or primary carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk of COVID-19 mortality and therefore clinically vulnerable. In Scotland this also includes carers whom people rely on for day-to-day in-person support and access to the COVID-19 vaccination is not limited to only one carer in a caring relationship.

The COVID-19 vaccine reduces your chances of developing serious or life-threatening symptoms. NHS Scotland strongly advises that you take the vaccine when it is offered to you.

From 8am on Monday, 15 March, a dedicated website found at <https://register.vacs.nhs.scot>, will allow those not yet contacted, to register as an unpaid carer for the COVID-19 vaccination. The aim of this service is to enable as many eligible carers to receive their COVID-19 vaccination as possible.

You are eligible for vaccination at this stage and should register if all of the following statements apply to you:

- You are 16 to 64 years old
- You provide face-to-face care and support to one or more family members, friends or neighbours
- The care you provide is not part of a contract or voluntary work
- If caring for someone under 18, they are affected by a disability, physical or mental ill-health or other care-related issue
- You have not already received your first COVID-19 vaccination or vaccination appointment letter

When registering, you will be asked to confirm that you meet all of the above criteria. If you do not (for example, you provide only emotional support by phone/video call), then you will be asked to wait until NHS Scotland contacts you to let you know it's your turn to have the vaccine. It is important not to contact NHS Scotland for a vaccination before then.

To access the self-registration website, visit <https://register.vacs.nhs.scot>. If possible, please use this online option to register. For those who cannot do this online, please call the **Covid Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013** from **Monday 15 March**.

www.eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk

0141 638 4888 | enquiries@eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk

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Registered Office: East Renfrewshire Carers Centre, 8 Carlibar Rd, Barrhead, G78 1AA

We expect those who use the online option to register will complete the process and receive their appointment in approximately three days on confirmation of eligibility. This may take longer for those who use the helpline and dependent on your local health board.

You will be asked to provide the following information about yourself to help the NHS Scotland identify you:

- Date of birth
- Name
- Address and Postcode
- Gender, as registered with your GP

You will then be asked your contact preferences so that once we have identified you, we can confirm your next steps through email or text.

When identified, you will be notified of your vaccination appointment details. Please do everything you can to attend. Within your invitation, you will be given details to reschedule your appointment if you are unable to attend the date or time given or cannot get to your allocated venue.

If you are not eligible at this time, you will be invited for your vaccination later on in the programme. Please wait to be contacted by NHS Scotland.

If you have already received your vaccination or a letter of appointment, there is no further action to take, and no need to register.

For more information on the COVID-19 vaccination programme, visit www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine.

Sent on behalf of the Scottish Government

HELP AND SUPPORT IS STILL AVAILABLE DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC



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enquiries@eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk



www.eastrenfrewshirecarers.co.uk/COVID-19

East Renfrewshire Carers Centre remains open throughout the pandemic.

If we can help at all with your caring role, please do hesitate to get in touch.

Mark Mulhern *Centre Manager*

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