



31st January 2022

Dear Colleagues

Welcome to our weekly edition of the LMC Express.

Government may u-turn on vaccine requirement

This morning we woke up to the announcement in the press that the government may u-turn on the requirement for NHS staff to be vaccinated for Covid. It seems that the apparently less severe nature of the Omicron variant has swayed the government to change course, and so the necessity of the policy has changed from when it was first initiated, when the Delta variant was prevalent.

However, until this decision is made official we suggest practices proceed with some caution. If the policy is not withdrawn the staff will need to have the first vaccine by this Friday, 4th February 2022. Practices may wish to continue on this basis until an official government announcement. If you have colleagues that want to be vaccinated but are concerned about being able to organise their first vaccine in time, we advise that they consider visiting a walk-in vaccination centre. These have been set up across Kent and Medway and staff attending these should be able to be seen without too much delay. Details on where these are located can be found on the CCG's website [here](#) and the list of sites is regularly updated.

Summary of latest guidance on VCOD

Although the VCOD requirements may soon be withdrawn, we have collected the most up-to-date VCOD guidance on our website [here](#).

VCOD Survey – numbers of staff affected by VCOD requirements

Thank you to everyone that has responded to the survey so far. If you have not yet responded, please can you do one of the following

- Practices that are likely to have staff that are unvaccinated by 1 April 2022, please complete the table below and send to info@kentlmc.org
- If you do not anticipate VCOD being an issue then please confirm by email via info@kentlmc.org.

	Clinical	Non-Clinical
Number of Practice Staff		
Number not currently vaccinated		
Number who are unlikely to be vaccinated by 1/4/22		

Kind regards
Kent Local Medical Committee