

# Guidance for Care Homes

## What does this mean for us?

From 11 November 2021, all care home workers, and anyone entering a care home, will need to be fully vaccinated, unless they are exempt under the regulations.

Click [here](#) for full guidance

The new regulations require the registered manager at CQC registered care homes to ensure that a person does not enter the indoor premises unless they have been vaccinated, subject to certain exemptions.

### Exemptions

- the person is a resident in the care home
- the person has provided to the registered manager with satisfactory evidence that:
  - they have been vaccinated with the complete course of an authorised vaccine
  - they, for clinical reasons, should not be vaccinated
- it is reasonably necessary for the person to provide emergency assistance in the care home
- it is reasonably necessary for the person to provide urgent maintenance assistance to the care home
- the person is a member of the emergency services in execution of their duties
- the person is a friend or relative of the resident visiting the resident
- the person is visiting a resident who is dying
- it is reasonably necessary for the person to provide comfort or support to a resident in relation to a resident's bereavement following the death of a relative or friend
- the person is under the age of 18

### Residents

If someone is a resident or being admitted as a resident, they and an accompanying friend or relative will not require proof of vaccination. The new resident should be encouraged to take up vaccination as soon as possible.

The regulation does require prospective residents and their families visiting care homes to provide evidence of vaccination or medical exemption. Care home managers may want to consider remote visits via video link for any prospective residents who are not vaccinated.

### Emergency Assistance

If someone is entering the care home for emergency assistance for an incident in the care home itself, or in relation to an incident in a neighbouring building (for example if access is required to respond to a fire), they will not need to show proof of vaccination or medical exemption.

The registered manager must keep a log of all emergency situations, including details of the circumstances, during which people entered the home without showing proof of vaccination or exemption.

### Emergency services

Emergency services staff attending the care home in the execution of their duties are exempt from the requirement, including:

- members of the fire and rescue services
- members of the police service
- members of the health service deployed for emergency response

### Friends, relatives and essential care givers

Friends, family and essential care givers will not need to show proof of vaccination or medical exemption.

### Urgent maintenance work

If work is required inside the care home, then individuals carrying out maintenance will need to show proof of vaccination or medical exemption. However, if urgent maintenance work is required in the event of a risk to life or continuity of care, workers are exempt from these requirements. Care home managers should use their professional judgement to determine whether a situation requires urgent maintenance work.

The registered manager must keep a log of all urgent maintenance work during which people entered the home without showing proof of vaccination or medical exemption, and a short description of the incident.

### Death and bereavement

People do not need to show proof of vaccination or exemption if they are visiting a resident who is dying (that is in their last days of life) or they are providing comfort or support to a resident following the death of a relative or friend.

Funeral directors and their staff will have to show proof of vaccination or exemption when entering the care home.

### Under 18s

A person under the age of 18 does not have to provide evidence of vaccination or exemption before entering a care home.

### Students

All students who enter the care home as part of their studies will need to show proof of vaccination or exemption, unless they are under 18 or visiting as family or a friend of a resident.

### Volunteers

All volunteers who enter the care home will need to show proof of vaccination or exemption, unless they are under 18.