



Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP
Secretary of State for Health and Social Care

Nadhim Zahawi MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State (Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment)

Department of Health and Social Care
39 Victoria Street
London
SW1H 0EU
United Kingdom

Rt Hon Gavin Williamson MP
Secretary of State for Education

Department for Education
Sanctuary Buildings
Great Smith Street
London, SW1P 3BT

12 January 2021

Dear Matt, Nadhim and Gavin

Priority COVID-19 vaccination for education staff

We are writing to you to ask that you urgently consider raising the priority level for all staff in early years, school, college, adult education, and independent training provider settings to receive the COVID-19 vaccination.

The government has set the priority list for phase one of the vaccination programme based on Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice focused on reducing risk of preventable mortality. JCVI said that more occupations could be prioritised in phase two as it moves to a transmission reduction programme.

The case for prioritising early years, school, college, adult education, and independent training provider staff is as follows:

- Fully reopening education settings is a national priority - the moment it is safe to do so.
- Learning often takes place indoors and in close contact with large numbers of students in multiple groups, putting staff at high risk of both catching and transmitting the virus.
- Vaccination prioritisation, combined with mass testing, would be a sure way to reduce transmissions, remove any further disruption to the education of our



young people and to support the resumption of economic activity by reducing the burden of home schooling on working parents.

We would suggest that education staff are sub-categorised for priority so that those working in early years, specialist settings and those whose role involves elements of health care and very close contact, are first to receive the vaccine. This sub-group should be closely followed by wider teaching and support staff in all schools and colleges.

All our organisations agree that this proposal is the right course of action for students, education staff and the wider communities in which they study and work to reduce transmission of the virus and maximise the quality of the education that students receive. We invite you to work with us on this issue and will offer all appropriate support to you in delivery of the vaccination programme to all education staff.

Yours sincerely,

David Hughes, Chief Executive Officer,
Association of Colleges

Geoff Barton, General
Secretary, Association of School
and College Leaders

Jane Hickie, Chief Executive Officer,
Association of Employment and
Learning Providers

Neil Leitch, Chief Executive
Officer, Early Years Alliance.

Kevin Courtney and Dr Mary Boustead,
Joint General Secretaries, National Education
Union

Stuart Fegan, National Officer,
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Alex Payne

Alex Payne, Chief Executive Officer, Landex

S.A. Pember

Dr. Sue Pember, Policy Director, HOLEX

Bill

Bill Watkin, Chief Executive Officer, Sixth Form Colleges Association

Clare Howard

Clare Howard, Chief Executive Officer, National Association of Specialist Colleges

J Grady

Dr. Jo Grady, General Secretary, UCU

J. Richards

Jon Richards, Head of Education and Local Government, UNISON

Siobhan Endean

Siobhan Endean, National Officer for Equalities, UNITE