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To: Parents & Carers

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Dear Parent/Carer

### **COVID-19 Vaccination of staff in Special Schools**

This is an update on Covid-19 vaccinations for Special School employees in Staffordshire.

The NHS are currently inviting some frontline social care workers to receive their Covid-19 vaccine. Government policy is to offer Covid-19 vaccination in priority order to ensure that those at highest risk are protected as soon as possible. This is based on scientific advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

Under government policy only those frontline social care workers who provide 'hands on' care for people who are clinically vulnerable to Covid-19 are eligible for vaccination at this stage. This means that whilst some employees of Special Schools may be eligible for vaccination before 15 February, the vaccine will not be offered to all Special School employees at this stage.

Staffordshire County Council is following government policy. We are identifying employees of Special Schools who provide care for children or young people who are clinically extremely vulnerable or have disabilities or health conditions that make them exceptionally vulnerable to Covid-19 for vaccination and the NHS will be inviting them for vaccination before 15 February.

All Special School employees will be vaccinated as the NHS moves down the priority order. I understand that some parents may have concerns if Special School employees are not vaccinated immediately however the risk from Covid-19 to healthy adults and children is low.

I am aware that some local authorities have chosen to deviate from Government policy, however the advice from the NHS in Staffordshire is that this would delay vaccination of those at higher risk, prolonging the pressure on hospitals, with 'lockdown' restrictions required for longer. This is something that we cannot justify.



Thank you for your understanding and all your hard work supporting your child's learning during these extremely challenging times.

Yours faithfully



**Dr Richard Harling MBE**  
**Director of Health and Care**

