



Department for
Business, Energy
& Industrial Strategy



Department
of Health &
Social Care

Nadhim Zahawi MP
Minister for Business and Industry
Minister for COVID Vaccine
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Ms Aliya Yule
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By email to: Irrelevant & Sensitive

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Dear Ms Yule,

Thank you for your correspondence of 17 February to the Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, co-signed by James Skinner of Medact and on behalf of a number of organisations, about COVID-19 vaccination. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in replying to you.

I am delighted that we have met our target to offer a first vaccine dose to everyone in the first nine priority groups, as advised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), by 13 April 2021. Nearly 40 million of the most vulnerable people have now received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine.

For public health protection, it is very important that people are not deterred from seeking treatment for COVID-19. The Department therefore took early steps to ensure that diagnosis and treatment for COVID-19 is free for all, including anyone living in the UK without permission. This message has been widely communicated to health practitioners through Public Health England's migrant health guide and through stakeholders representing vulnerable migrant groups. This guidance can be found at: www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-entitlements-migrant-health-guide.

I can assure you that no immigration checks are needed for overseas visitors when they are tested, treated, or vaccinated for COVID-19.

NHS providers have also been advised not to share any information with the Home Office or to ask for status details from those accessing services related to COVID-19 treatment during the pandemic.

An NHS number is not needed to make a booking for a COVID-19 vaccination or when attending the appointment. However, individuals do need to be registered with a GP. If individuals are registered with a GP, then their practice will contact them in due course if they have not already done so.

We understand that not everyone is registered with a GP. This includes those experiencing homelessness, people who may not live at a fixed address, refugees and those seeking asylum, or simply because an individual chooses not to. Visitors in the UK for more than 24 hours and less than three months can register with a GP as a temporary patient, with no proof of address or immigration status required.