

Penderels Trust: Coronavirus COVID-19

Information for Personal Assistants (PAs): PA Testing and Vaccine

This document is specifically around PA testing and vaccinations for Covid-19. For our general Frequently Asked Questions document on the Covid-19 pandemic which covers topics including self-isolation, statutory sick pay and what to do if you can't work, please click here: <https://www.penderelstrust.org.uk/pdf/PAFAQ.pdf>

What are the different types of Covid-19 tests?

The main way of testing for Covid-19 is by using the Lateral Flow Test – you get results from this test very quickly (within 30 minutes). The PCR test is no longer available free of charge in England.

Should I still have regular testing?

Not anymore. As of Wednesday 24th August 2022, the Government has said adult social care workers, including PAs, no longer need to take regular tests as long as they feel well. If you have symptoms of Covid-19, you should take a test and follow the advice as before.

When will I be invited to go for a Covid-19 Vaccination?

All adults and young people aged 5 and over are able to book a vaccination. You should book via this link: <http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/>

You should let your employer know you've booked your vaccination.

I want to know why having the vaccine is important. Do you have any information to help me make up my mind?

If you want to know more about why having the Covid-19 vaccine is important, this short video produced on behalf of Department of Health and Social Care explains it.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e6UHLcmC1vo&feature=youtu.be>

This video is primarily aimed at staff working in a care home but the explanation is relevant to those working in the community too.

I don't want the vaccine. Can I be made to have it?

The short answer is no. The UK government cannot make anyone have a vaccination against their will. It is against their human rights.

Can I my employer end my employment if I refuse to have the vaccine?

It depends on a number of factors. We would advise that your employer to speak to their insurance provider to discuss it through with them.

The Independent Living Group (ILG) (part of Premier Care insurance) has produced a factsheet on this topic which can be accessed here: https://be-human.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/ILG_Support_PA_vaccine_advice_note_Ver2.pdf

Am I eligible for the booster jab?

Yes, all frontline health and social care workers are eligible for the booster. You must wait six months after your second vaccination before booking a booster jab.

You can book on the following link once that time has passed:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-booster-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/>

For all our Covid-19 information, please visit the home page of our website

www.penderelstrust.org.uk