



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

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Minister for Business and Industry  
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By email to: [ayesha@kalayaan.org.uk](mailto:ayesha@kalayaan.org.uk)

Dear Ms Gava,

Thank you for your correspondence of 2 December to Matt Hancock, Kevin Foster, Victoria Atkins and myself, regarding vaccination against COVID-19. Please accept my sincere apologies for the delay in replying.

I understand your concerns about fair and equal access to a COVID-19 vaccination. The provision of the COVID-19 vaccine is a primary medical service and will be offered to all individuals living in the UK, regardless of immigration status. This will include those who are living in the UK without permission when provided by GP practices or community pharmacies.

In order to keep people safe, we must tackle this disease across the whole society regardless of backgrounds and settings. We encourage all undocumented migrants to register with their local GP, this will allow them to be contacted at the appropriate time based on the prevalence of any underlying health conditions. Whilst an individual's NHS number might be used for administration purposes, having an NHS number is not a pre-requisite to be offered the coronavirus vaccine.

If individuals are registered with a GP, then their GP will contact them in due course. If they are not registered with a GP, NHS Regional teams working with various appropriate local systems will reach out to unregistered people to ensure they are offered the vaccine.

The General Practice COVID-19 vaccination programme 2020/21 Enhanced Service Specification (the contract that general practices will deliver COVID-19 Vaccination under) enables practices working within their Primary Care Network groupings from shared vaccination sites to vaccinate unregistered patients provided they are eligible for a vaccination e.g. within an eligible cohort, and the PCN grouping will receive payment for this.

Requirement for ID is only linked to specific occupational cohort eligibility which includes health and social care workers. For individuals in other cohorts, no proof of name or address is required when attending a vaccination appointment. Some patients may have a booking reference ID generated by the national booking system which would replace checking their name and address.

Those who do not have an NHS number, can still book an appointment to be vaccinated against COVID-19. No immigration checks are needed to receive these services and I can assure you that the NHS is not required to report undocumented migrants to the Home Office.

The Home Office will not take action when an undocumented migrant registers with a GP for a COVID-19 vaccine, and we will not share their identities with police or immigration officers.

We understand that this is an uncertain time for a lot of people. The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC), alongside NHS and Public Health England (PHE) are providing advice and information at every possible opportunity to support those who have been prioritised to receive a vaccine and anyone who has questions about the vaccination process.

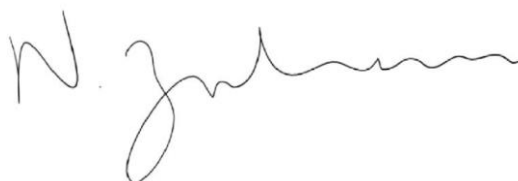
The latest advice and information are available on the NHS website and GOV.UK and our social media channels are regularly publishing fact cards, films and interviews about vaccine safety and answering frequently asked questions about vaccine production. In addition, our senior clinicians are devoting considerable time to giving media interviews and taking part in live question and answer sessions to answer questions from the public about COVID-19 vaccines.

We have also made extensive attempts to make this content as accessible to as many different groups as possible. Senior clinicians, ministers and officials are also holding regular briefing sessions with stakeholders, medical charities, faith groups and BAME community leaders about the vaccines we have authorised for use and the vaccine rollout. The Government is also sponsoring content on social media channels and a range of news media outlets to provide information and advice to communities across the community.

Our communications include information and advice via TV, radio and social media. This has been translated into 13 languages including Bengali, Chinese, Filipino, Gujarati, Hindi, Mirpur, Punjabi and Urdu. Print and online material, including interviews and practical advice has appeared in over 600 national, regional, local and specialist titles including BAME media for Asian, Bangladeshi, Bengali, Gujarati and Pakistani communities.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and I hope this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', written in a cursive style.

**NADHIM ZAHAWI MP**  
Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment  
Minister for Business and Industry