

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



HOUSE OF COMMONS
LONDON SW1A 0AA

23rd August 2021

Dear Constituent,

RE: BOOSTER COVID-19 VACCINE FOR ASTHMA PATIENTS

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding offering a COVID-19 booster vaccine for asthma patients. I have read your concerns with great consideration and interest.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation (JCVI) concluded that only those with more severe forms of asthma are at clinically high risk from COVID-19. This group are defined as adults with asthma who require continuous or repeated use of systemic steroids, or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission and will have been eligible for vaccination as part of 'priority group six'. An individual with a more severe case of asthma may have been included in the 'clinically extremely vulnerable group', in which case they will have been eligible as part of 'priority group four'.

To assist GPs in identifying patients eligible for a vaccine in each priority cohort, I understand that NHS Digital aligned specifications for the identification of patients via their medical records with GP system suppliers. Asthma sufferers were identified through this system and invited to make an appointment when the vaccination programme reached their priority cohort. I urge anyone who thinks they should be in these categories to get in touch with their GP to discuss.

The JCVI has published its interim advice for a two-stage booster vaccination programme beginning in September. The first stage would include, among others, those who are clinically extremely vulnerable to COVID-19 and the second stage would include adults aged between 16 and 49 who are in either a flu or COVID-19 at risk group. This means that those who are usually eligible for the annual flu vaccine would be included in the second stage.

This is, however, only interim advice and the JCVI will consider additional scientific data ahead of publishing the final advice in due course. I understand that this will include further data on the durability of protection from vaccines beyond six months and clinical trial data. I will of course be following developments closely and look forward to seeing the JCVI's final advice. I have also ensured that Ministers are aware of your views on this.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

With best wishes,

TOM PURSGLOVE MP
MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE