

Media Release

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COVID-19 vaccines for individuals aged 30 to 39 years

The Bailiwick COVID-19 Vaccination Programme team is aware of the guidance published today by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

The UK's medicines safety regulator says there have been 242 clotting cases after 28.5 million doses of the vaccine have been administered. But the risk is slightly higher in younger age groups.

This recommendation is based on the review of data produced by Public Health England, The University of Cambridge and The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This data facilitated an age-based risk stratification, comparing the risk of Vaccine Acquired Thrombosis and Thrombocytopenia with the risk of morbidity and mortality associated with a COVID-19 infection.

The JCVI has stated that their preference is that individuals aged between 30 and 39 should be offered the Pfizer BioNTech or Moderna vaccine but the AstraZeneca vaccine can continue to be used for this age group.

Prof Wei Shen Lim, from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), said:

“ Safety remains our number one priority.”

“As Covid-19 rates continue to come under control, we are advising that adults aged 18 - 39 years with no underlying health conditions are offered an alternative to the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, if available, and if it does not cause delays in having the vaccine.”

In light of this announcement, work has already started to assess the likely supply of all 3 vaccines available within the Bailiwick to explore how those aged 30 to 39 age groups can be offered a vaccine in accordance with the preferences expressed by the JCVI.

Arrangements are being made to ensure that for those impacted by this decision, who have already booked a time to receive their vaccine, an alternative can be offered.

If you have already received your first dose of AstraZeneca the current guidance states that you should continue and receive the second dose when scheduled, unless you have experienced a major venous or arterial thrombosis and thrombocytopenia after your first vaccination.

We are already working with Alderney and Sark to support their delivery in these age groups.