

The latest news and announcements from Derbyshire UNISON

## Mandatory vaccinations

UNISON warns of staffing catastrophe on double-jab deadline



## Double-jab rule risks care collapse

**Care homes face closure as the government persists with draconian vaccination plans which have seen care staff who aren't doubled-vaccinated sacked already**

The 'no job, no job' policy risks the collapse of care companies, and needless upset for thousands of elderly residents and their families.

Care staff have been banned from entering care homes in England unless they were double jabbed by 11 November.

Then, health and social care secretary Sajid Javid announced the double-jab rule will be extended and apply to all domiciliary care workers from 1 April.

However, the care sector is

already facing a staffing catastrophe. UNISON believes mandatory vaccination should be scrapped.

The government itself predicts the loss of up to 70,000 care home workers because of its policy. This is in addition to existing vacancies in care which currently stand at more than 105,000.

UNISON fears some care homes could be forced to shut their doors and others will struggle to meet safe staffing levels to provide satisfactory care.

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The union believes that everyone that can have the vaccine, should have the vaccine. However, the government's heavy-handed rules have driven much-needed staff away and now tens of thousands face the sack.

Resources should instead be used to persuade hesitant workers of the benefits of taking the jab, says UNISON. The union says the government could also consider mandatory daily testing for non-vaccinated care home workers as an alternative.

UNISON general secretary Christina McAnea said: "Care home employers warned of the dire consequences of a draconian approach. The staffing crisis will become a catastrophe for a sector already on its knees.

"Some homes may have to close if care staff are barred from their jobs. The upheaval and distress caused to many elderly residents and their families would be disastrous.

"Forcing the vaccine on care staff is an own goal by the government. Take-up rates will only increase with persuasion, not punishment."