



Stakeholder Update COVID-19 Vaccine 6 January 2021

Good Afternoon,

The greatest hope at the start of 2021 is the promise of the new vaccine. An effective vaccine is the best way to protect people from coronavirus. The NHS and local authorities are working hard to deliver the vaccine, as supplies continue to be distributed.

The announcement last week of the Oxford Astra-Zeneca vaccination is welcome news, as it is not subject to the same cold storage requirements as the Pfizer vaccine. This means we will be able to offer this vaccine more widely to at risk groups, in particular housebound patients unable to travel.

Thanks to the efforts of our Primary Care Networks (groups of GP practices), we have rapidly rolled out the vaccine to a significant proportion of our over 80s population. The vast majority of the vaccine has been prioritised to the over 80s, with a smaller number of vaccines being delivered to our most at risk health and care workers (including care home staff).

For any over 80s who have not yet been contacted, we would like to reassure them that they will be contacted in the near future. We will then continue to offer the vaccine to the most at-risk groups as determined nationally. [This poster](#) helps to explain who will receive the vaccine first.

Over the festive break, residents in 20 care homes also received the first dose of the vaccination with more rapidly following this week and over the coming weeks. These care homes are being supported by the Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and due to the logistical challenges of the vaccines we have had to start with larger care homes first.

We have seen a fantastic response from local patients and uptake for the vaccine has been high. Nationally more than 944,539 people have received the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine in the UK by the end of December. We are unable to share local data, as it must be first verified nationally and released as part of [the weekly statistics](#).

By the end of this week 17 out of our 23 PCN sites will be offering the vaccination, ensuring c.73% of our at risk population can access the vaccine. This is in addition to our hospital hub at the University Hospital of North Midlands (UHNM), with further hubs hopefully launching in the near future. Subject to the national assurance process, we anticipate that our remaining PCNs will be live within the next few weeks (if not sooner), offering 100% coverage. This was always meant to be a gradual roll out over the past few weeks, in line with national guidance. Not all STP areas have been able to make such rapid progress, so we would like to thank our PCNs for their support. We cannot confirm when sites will go live as this is subject to the vaccine being delivered, however we are planning this for the near future.

Our plans for larger vaccination sites in the county are also progressing well and we are confident that we will be ready for launch. We are unable to confirm where these will be and when they go live, as this is subject to national assurance and there will be a gradual approach to the roll out across the country. There has been strong partnership working to get us to this position and we would like to thank all partners for their involvement.

As vaccine supplies increase over the coming weeks, we will be able to offer the vaccine out to more people. So far, the vaccine is continuing to be prioritised at a national level to support supply across the country.

Locally we are ready, and thanks to the support of our councils, NHS providers and local businesses we have the buildings and staff ready to mobilise the vaccine at a rapid pace.

You may have seen the national change in guidance, that more people are being offered the first dose of the vaccine, by extending the period for the second dose to be given. We have worked with our clinicians to respond to this guidance. We welcome the opportunity to be able to offer the vaccine to more people and support the wider community. We are working with the vaccinators to communicate any changes to appointments and to ensure that all people are invited for their second dose within the recommended 12 weeks. It is important that people still attend their appointment, unless they have been instructed not to.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation's independent advice is that this approach will maximise the benefits of both vaccines allowing the NHS to help the greatest number of people in the shortest possible time. It will ensure that more at-risk people are able to get meaningful protection from a vaccine in the coming weeks and months, reducing deaths and starting to ease pressure on our NHS.

We want to stress that even when people have had the vaccine, they must continue to follow the rules around social distancing and wearing protective face coverings or PPE for health and care workers. This is because it takes several weeks to gain protection from the vaccine and also there is still a risk of carrying the virus and transmitting it to others.

We know that expectations are high at the moment about the vaccine, and that there are myths circulating. We will aim to dispel as many of these myths as we can and keep you regularly informed through a weekly bulletin on progress. Thank you for your ongoing patience as we appreciate you are getting many queries from your constituents.

In the meantime, we are asking people not to contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, the NHS will contact you. Also, when you are contacted, please attend your appointments.

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Sites already live or scheduled^(*) to go live this week:

- Cannock Villages
- East Staffordshire
- Newcastle South
- Seisdon
- Stafford Central
- Whitfield
- Meir
- ABC (About Better Care)
- Mossgreen Surgery
- Burntwood
- Newcastle North
- Moorlands Rural

- South West Primary Care
- HIPC (Holistic Integrated Person Centred)
- Shelton and Hanley
- Rugeley and Great Haywood
- Park Medical
- South Stoke Central*
- Newcastle Central*
- Lichfield*
- Cannock North*
- Mercian*
- Biddulph*

For more information email twb.comms@nhs.net