

COVID-19 Response Stakeholder briefing

14 January 2021

Response to COVID-19 – Brighton and Hove

This briefing aims to update you on the response across our local NHS system in Brighton and Hove to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the vaccination programme.

Latest position in Brighton and Hove

The number of confirmed cases of Covid-19 in Brighton & Hove has more than doubled since the current national lockdown started on 26 December.

In the seven days up to 8 January (based on data published on 13 January) we had 2244 confirmed new Covid-19 cases in Brighton & Hove. This is:

- a 18% increase per 100,000 residents from the previous week
- equivalent to a weekly rate of new cases of 771 per 100,000 residents
- higher than the rate for England, which was 655 per 100,000 and the South East which was 699 per 100,000

Managing demand on NHS services

The demand for all NHS and care services across Sussex continues to be significant due to the high infection rates of COVID-19 in the community. In some places, we are now seeing triple the number of COVID-19 positive hospital inpatients compared with the first peak back in the spring, and numbers are still increasing.

Staff across the NHS and local authorities are working tirelessly to ensure they continue to provide safe consistent care; hospitals, community teams, mental health services, social care, GP practices and the NHS111 telephone service are incredibly busy, but remain open.

As you will have seen the Sussex Resilience Forum declared a Major Incident on Wednesday (January 6) to best respond to unprecedented pressures of Covid-19 on the county.

A major incident is a recognition of national demand and puts all agencies in Sussex in the best possible position to come together to tackle the virus. It is a well-recognised and rehearsed escalation that can be expected at times of exceptional need – a major incident was also in place during the summer of 2020.

We agreed the decision would allow the SRF to step up and strengthen its response still further. This may include making more use of volunteer help, preparing in detail for extra capacity needed across services and considering requests for extra support from national government if necessary

In terms of current impact on services, the position is:

Discharge - at times, to ensure we can treat patients who need urgent care quickly and to maintain the highest standards of safety for all our patients, this will mean some patients are discharged from hospitals into community settings which may not be their first choice. Our teams are working to have conversations with families and manage this with each individual in the best possible way;

Planned operations – at this time the system is continuing to provide cancer, urgent elective operations and diagnostics, but some routine, planned operations are being delayed in order to respond to the increase in demand. These decisions are never taken lightly and are temporary measures only.

Maternity services - due to the significant pressure on our ambulance service, immediate changes are being made to maternity services to ensure that all births can take place as safely as possible. Whilst the ambulance trust is prioritising urgent 999 calls, this means that support for all emergencies from the ambulance service will be stretched and response times may be delayed. This includes attending home addresses for complications that can arise during home births, and attending for complications that can arise at stand-alone midwife led units where women/people may need to be transferred to another maternity unit.

The safety of births is our priority, so across Brighton and Hove the decision has been made to suspend planned homebirths and births at the stand-alone midwife led unit at Eastbourne Hospital at this time. Our teams are working to ensure that our maternity services are as accommodating as possible and the home birthing teams and midwife-led unit midwives will be available to continue to provide care if you were planning a home birth or a midwife-led unit birth.

The situation continues to be monitored regularly and there are system calls every day. We will continue to keep you updated.

COVID-19 Vaccination programme

A promotional poster for the NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme. The background is a photograph of a healthcare worker in a maroon uniform and face mask administering a vaccine to an elderly man wearing a black face mask and a blue and green striped shirt. The NHS logo is in the top right corner. The text is overlaid on a blue background on the left side of the image.

When will I get my jab?

Vaccines are being rolled out in GP-led vaccination services, hospital hubs and care homes.

Visit our website for the full list.

KEEP SUSSEX SAFE

CORONAVIRUS

This week the Sussex vaccination programme has launched a new campaign to provide clear public information to members of the public, patients and our partners.

The campaign will build over the coming days including promotion on social media, newspapers, community groups, and with partners.

We recognise the high interest from across our communities in the vaccination programme and we hope that this campaign can help to support our communities as we continue the roll out of this vital protection.

Update on the vaccination programme in Brighton and Hove

There are a number of ways in which the vaccination is being rolled out to our communities:

- **A GP-led vaccination service** is where those who are in the first priority groups living in our local community will initially receive their vaccination. This involves groups of local GP practices working together to provide the vaccination to their collective patients at one location. This means that you may not receive the vaccination at your local GP; you may be required to travel to a different location nearby.
- **Hospital hubs** – local hospitals across the country have begun giving the vaccine to people over 80 who are attending for a planned appointment and frontline health and care staff. You will only receive your vaccination in this way if you have an appointment at your hospital.
- **Roving service** – the vaccine will be taken into care homes and into people's own homes if they cannot attend a vaccination site. This is being stepped up over the coming weeks as more supplies of the vaccines become available.
- **Large vaccination centres** – each county will have one large vaccination centre which will be able to give the vaccine to large numbers of people. The large vaccination centres that will service your area will be at the Brighton Centre and this is likely to be up and running at the end of the month.

Latest position on GP led vaccination services for Brighton and Hove residents

Four GP led vaccination services have now gone live in Brighton and Hove, and thousands of patients over the age of 80 have started to receive their vaccination. This includes a new GP led vaccination service at Brighton Racecourse which went live this week.

This week agreement was also reached for the patients at a group of GP practices not previously covered to attend Brighton Racecourse for their vaccine, and they will start to be contacted as appointments are made available, subject to vaccine supply.

The GP led vaccination services for Brighton and Hove are currently:

- County Oak Medical Centre:
 - For patients at Brighton Station Health Centre, Carden Surgery, Montpelier Surgery, Seven Dials Medical Centre and University of Sussex Health Centre.
- Portslade Health Centre:
 - For patients at Brighton Health and Wellbeing Centre, Benfield Valley Healthcare Hub, Charter Medical Group, Hove Medical Centre, Links Road Surgery, Mile Oak Medical Centre, Portslade Health Centre, Trinity Medical Centre, and Wish Park Surgery.

- St Augustine's Arts and Events Centre:
 - For patients at Preston Park Surgery, Stanford Medical Centre, The Haven Practice and Warmdene Surgery.
- Brighton Racecourse:
 - For patients at:
 - Park Crescent Health Centre
 - St Peter's Medical Centre
 - Wellsbourne Healthcare CIC
 - Albion Street Surgery
 - Arch healthcare
 - Ardingly Court Surgery
 - Broadway Surgery
 - Pavilion Surgery
 - Regency Surgery
 - Saltdean and Rottingdean Medical Practice
 - School House Surgery
 - Ship Street Surgery
 - St Luke's Surgery
 - The Avenue Surgery
 - Woodingdean Medical Centre

We understand that there have been some enquiries about the location of the race course and we recognise that some people will have to travel further than others to get their vaccination depending on where they live in the city. If anyone is concerned about how they will travel to get a vaccine during lockdown, it should be noted that, under the national guidance, it is permissible to receive a lift from someone or there are community transport providers offering this support in terms of transport for medical appointments. You can find information about community and non-emergency transport on the Brighton and Hove City Council website, or call the community hub on 01273 293 117.

How the GP led vaccination services are working

Each site that has gone live had an initial delivery of vaccine with 975 doses to provide the first vaccination to their patients. Some have ordered further supplies and have completed a second session of first doses to their patients. This will now be an ongoing process with the sites ordering vaccine and inviting in more of their over 80 registered population.

The Government guidance on the timing of the second dose has been updated and is now over a 12 week period. All of our vaccination services will be working to adhere to the guidance and invite their patients back for their second dose in the 12 week period.

We are working to vaccinate as many people as possible as quickly as possible, but deploying a vaccine at this scale is unprecedented. Timing will be dependent to a large extent on manufacturing timescales and supply.

We would please ask all partners to encourage the public not to call their GP practice to find out more about the vaccination programme and to make an appointment. GP practices are incredibly busy at the moment providing their day to day care for patients and they have seen an increase in calls to their teams to ask about the vaccination programme and when it will be available.

We are working with all GP practices to have clear information on their websites and working with community partners to ensure we can share the latest updates in our communities.

Hospital hubs

Hospital hub vaccination services in Sussex were launched at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton on 08 December 2020. Teams at the hospital have been vaccinating those over the age of 80 who were attending the hospital and health and care staff, including care home staff.

Further to the hospital hub in Brighton, five more are now live across Sussex. Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath became one of the first in the country to use the new AstraZeneca vaccine this week. This vaccine can be transported easier than the Pfizer vaccine and will be rolled out more widely as supplies become available.

Vaccinations in care homes

Older people in care homes have been identified as the top priority group for the vaccine by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations due to their high risk from COVID-19. Care staff are also in the top priority.

As of 12 January, a total of 75 care homes in Sussex. This includes two homes in Brighton and Hove; 31 in East Sussex and 42 in West Sussex. Many more homes across our patch will be vaccinated this week, and we will update you on numbers again in the next briefing.

We are working in partnership with care homes to roll out the vaccination programme across Sussex and intend to vaccinate all care homes by mid-February 2021, subject to vaccine supply, with all care homes with residents over 65 years old scheduled for vaccination by the end of January. We will confirm details to each home individually. This will include the appropriate information sharing and consents required, including any additional considerations such as mental capacity and safeguarding.

More information

We continue to publish all of the latest information on the vaccine of the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#) including a public FAQ, which you may find useful.

An FAQ with suggested replies to common enquiries is also attached to this briefing to help you with the questions you may be receiving.