

COVID-19 Response Stakeholder briefing

21 January 2021

Response to COVID-19 in East Sussex

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

Latest position in East Sussex

The number of new cases in East Sussex is falling with 3,227 new COVID-19 cases reported in the latest available 7-day period as published by GOV.UK on Wednesday 20 January 2021. That's down from 3,281 when last reported.

COVID-19 Vaccination programme

Latest data published:

In Sussex from 8 December 2020 to 17 January 2021, 125,364 vaccinations have been delivered across Sussex.

For more information: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

We have been stepping up the vaccination programme in phases over recent weeks and we are on course to vaccinate the top four priority groups across Sussex by mid-February, in line with the national target. The published data covers the period up until 17 January and since this date we have accelerated the number of people we have been able to vaccinate across the priority groups.

We now have arrangements in place for patients at every GP practice across Sussex, we have a large vaccination service going live from next week, and we have added two more hospital hubs to the six we already had in place. This will significantly increase our ability to vaccinate more people quicker in the coming days and weeks.

Due to the relatively large number of people who are over 80 living in Sussex, we recognise it will take us longer than in some other parts of the country to vaccinate this priority group in particular. However, we are on track to vaccinate all care homes for older people by the end

of the week, in line with the national target, and we expect to have vaccinated all over 80 year olds by the beginning of February.

We are working extremely hard to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible and we are committed to meeting the target of getting the four priority cohorts vaccinated by 15th February.

Overview of the COVID-19 vaccination programme

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. A large vaccination centre is expected to go live for Sussex next week.

As preparations finalise for the launch of the first large vaccination centre for Sussex next week, we have prepared materials this week as part of our public campaign 'When do I get my jab' to help to explain the different ways the vaccine is offered. A full briefing will be shared ahead of Monday but in the meantime please widely share our materials if these are helpful: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izprZWWYe9w>



Priority groups being offered vaccination

This week the government has announced that once vaccination services have vaccinated the majority of people in the first two priority cohorts recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) - *residents and staff in care homes for older people,*

those aged 80 and over and frontline health and care staff, they now have the flexibility to offer vaccinations to the next two cohorts – those aged 70 and over and clinically extremely vulnerable people.

This will keep up the pace of the vaccine roll-out, ensure that no vaccination appointments are unused and prevent wastage.

In Sussex, people aged over 80, care home residents and staff, and health and care workers remain the priority and good progress continues to be made.

We can reassure members of the public that people aged over 80 will be offered an appointment before services move to the next priority cohorts.

No one should worry if they haven't been contacted with an appointment to date; services will be contacting you in the coming days as more appointments become available in line with vaccine deliveries.

As the first of our large-scale vaccination centres and community pharmacy-led sites go live over the coming week, people in the eligible groups who live in a 60 mile radius from a vaccination centre or pharmacy service, will start to receive a letter from the national booking service. This invites them to book an appointment at the large scale vaccination centres or community pharmacy-led services.

As more large-scale centres and community pharmacy-led vaccination services come on-line these will be made available through the national booking service.

Anyone who receives a letter invitation from the national booking service has the choice of booking an appointment at one of the larger centres or community pharmacy-led sites offered or, if more convenient, waiting to be called by their GP.

Where people can have their vaccine in East Sussex

GP-led vaccination services

All patients registered with a GP in East Sussex are now covered by one of the GP-led local vaccination services and will be contacted when it is their turn to receive the vaccine.

GP practices have been working together in local groups to arrange the vaccination of their patients, usually at one shared location.

Most recently, a GP led vaccination service went live this week in Etchingham for people in rural Rother. The service is a partnership between the GP practices in the primary care network and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust.

Further to this, vaccinations will also start in Hailsham at the weekend. Appointments are being offered to the patients of the three GP practices and will take place into the start of next week.

This will signal the start of vaccinations for patients from every GP practice in East Sussex.

The GP led vaccination services for East Sussex are currently:

Eastbourne

The Beacon Shopping Centre, for patients at:

- Victoria Medical Centre

Hampden Park Health Centre (moving to the Sovereign Centre), for patients at:

- Arlington Road Surgery, Grove Road Surgery, Park Practice, Seaside Medical Centre, and The Lighthouse Medical Practice

Princes Park Health Centre, for patients at:

- Harbour Medical Practice, Sovereign Practice, Stone Cross Surgery in Pevensey, and Downlands Medical Centre and Manor Park Surgery, both in Polegate

Hastings

Kings Church, for patients at:

- Beaconsfield Road Surgery, Carisbrooke Surgery, Churchwood Medical Practice, Harold Road Surgery, Hastings Old Town Surgery, High Glades Medical Centre, Priory Road Surgery, Sedlescombe House, South Saxon House Surgery, The Station Practice, and Warrior Square Surgery

Lewes district

For Lewes: River Lodge Surgery, for patients at:

- Foundry Healthcare Lewes

For Seaford: Hampden Park Health Centre in Eastbourne, for patients at:

- Old School Surgery and Seaford Medical Practice

For the Havens: Brighton Racecourse, for patients at:

- Chapel Street Surgery and Quayside Medical Practice in Newhaven, and Havens Health in Peacehaven

Rother district

For patients in the district there a vaccination service went live last week at:

For Bexhill: Sidley Medical Practice, for patients at:

- Collington Surgery, Little Common Surgery, Pebham Surgery and Sidley Medical Practice

Etchingham Village Hall, for patients at:

- Fairfield Surgery, Ferry Road Health Centre, Martins Oak Surgery, Northiam Surgery, Oldwood Surgery, Rye Medical Centre, and Sedlescombe and Westfield Surgeries

Wealden district

Across the district there are vaccination services available for patients living in and around Crowborough and Uckfield. The services are:

For Crowborough: Saxonbury House Medical Centre, for patients at:

- Ashdown Forest Health Centre, Beacon Surgery, Wadhurst Medical Group, Groombridge and Hartfield Medical Group, Rotherfield Surgery, Saxonbury House Surgery, and Woodhill Surgery

For Uckfield: The Meads Medical Centre, for patients at:

- Bird-in-Eye Surgery, Buxted Medical Centre, Herstmonceux Integrative Health Centre, Heathfield Surgery (over 80s at this time), Mid Downs Medical Practice, and The Meads Surgery

For Hailsham:

- Bridgeside Surgery, Hailsham Medical Group, Quintins Medical centre

How the GP led vaccination services are working

Each GP led vaccination service is receiving deliveries of vaccine from the national supply to provide the first dose vaccination to their patients.

Appointments are being offered to patients as soon as vaccine deliveries are confirmed.

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 are following this guidance and inviting 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.

Getting to a vaccination appointment

We recognise that some people may have to travel further than others to get their vaccination appointment depending on where they live in the local area. 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 West Sussex County Council website, or call the community hub on 033 022 27980.

Hospital hubs

Hospital hub vaccination services in Sussex were launched at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton on 08 December 2020. There are now eight hospital hub vaccination services across Sussex, focused on the vaccination of health and care staff, including care home staff:

- Conquest Hospital, Hastings
- Eastbourne District General Hospital
- Mill View Hospital, Hove

- Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath
- Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead
- Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton
- St Richards Hospital, Chichester
- Worthing Hospital

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.

More than 300 care settings in Sussex have now been vaccinated (as of 19 January 2021). This includes 6,368 residents and 8,075 staff. Many more homes across our patch will be vaccinated this week, and we will update you on numbers again in the next briefing.

We expect to have vaccinated all care homes with residents over the age of 65 years old, by the 24 January, and all care homes in Sussex by mid-February 2021.

We will confirm details to each home individually. This will include the appropriate information sharing and consent forms required, including any additional considerations such as mental capacity (see below for more on this) and safeguarding.

Vaccination teams have plans in place as part of their operating procedures to cover those residents that are unwell, or were unable to have a vaccine, at the initial visit.

Vaccines are being delivered through the Sussex GP-led vaccination service, managed by the local Primary Care Networks (PCN). We expect this to cover the majority of the care homes in Sussex, with the remainder being served by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) vaccination teams.

More information

We are continuing to receive a large number of enquiries in relation to the COVID-19 vaccination programme. We will be updating our most frequently asked questions and responses with this briefing next week to include these recent enquiries and themes.

In the meantime, 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. **If you have a question about the Sussex COVID-19 vaccination programme, which is not answered in our FAQ document, please do let us know using the dedicated mailbox Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net**



