

# COVID-19 Response Stakeholder briefing

09 February 2021

## COVID-19 Vaccination update: East Sussex

Welcome to your regular briefing from the Sussex Health and Care Partnership on the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in East Sussex.

### Introduction

The COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to be rolled out across our communities. The top line brief from this week is:

- We are on course to meet the national target for offering the COVID-19 vaccination to the top four priority groups by mid-February;
- To date more than 374,670 vaccinations have been delivered across Sussex, including 362,581 first doses;
- All vaccination services are continuing to work this week to invite anyone in the first four priority groups who has not had their vaccination yet, and who wants it, for an appointment by next week;
- To ensure everyone has been offered the opportunity to have the jab, people aged 70 and over who have not yet been vaccinated and who would like to, are now able to contact the national booking service directly to arrange an appointment. People can go online - [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](https://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or call 119.

### Latest position

The latest official national data on vaccinations has been published today, this data reflects vaccinations up to 4 February 2021.

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

In the week since this data was recorded, progress has continued to be made and we remain on course to have offered the vaccination to the top four priority groups by mid-February, in line with the national target.

Our current position is:

- **Priority 1 - Residents and staff in a care home for older adults** - all older peoples care homes have received first dose vaccinations with the exception of a small remainder of homes who have been deferred due to an outbreak. Vaccinations for these homes have been scheduled.
- **Priority 2 - Frontline Health and social care workers and aged 80+** - Front line NHS staff have received first dose vaccination and we are working to ensure that remaining social care staff vaccinations are completed by February 15th. The majority of people aged 80 and over have been completed, with the remainder expected in the next two weeks.
- **Priority 3 - Aged 75-79.** 87.5% of those aged 75-79 have received the first dose vaccination in East Sussex. The remainder of the cohort is expected to be completed by February 15th.
- **Priority 4 - Aged 70-74 and Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals** – 63.1% of those aged 70-74 have received the first dose vaccination and the remainder of this cohort is expected to be completed by February 15th. We have identified those who are clinically extremely vulnerable and to date 66.7% have been vaccinated with the remainder are being actively invited for an appointment this week. Data this week shows:

09/02/21	Sussex		East Sussex	
Priority group	First dose	%	First dose	%
Age 80+	100,314	89.2%	35,735	87.8%
Age 75-79	68,473	88.4%	25,181	87.5%
Age 70-74	68,511	65.9%	24,349	63.1%
Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals	44,183	68.4%	14,015	66.7%

## How services are working

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

- **GP led vaccination services** – these include the GP led or community vaccination services, and pharmacy services in some areas;
- **Large vaccination centres** – each county will have one large vaccination centre which will be able to give the vaccine to large numbers of people as more supplies become available. The Welcome Building in Eastbourne went live last week for anyone in the eligible groups living within 60 miles;
- **Roving service** – the vaccine is being taken into care homes and into people's own homes if they cannot attend a vaccination site; and
- **Hospital hubs** – larger hospitals across the country have been offering the vaccine to people over 80 attending for a planned appointment. Now that more local vaccination services are up and running, hospital hubs are focused on vaccinating health and care staff.

## **GP led vaccination services**

The local vaccination services for East Sussex are currently:

### **Eastbourne**

*The Beacon Shopping Centre, for patients at:*

- Victoria Medical Centre

*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

*Laycocks Pharmacy, Ore*

### **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

*Ticehurst pharmacy*

## **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, Mid Downs Medical Practice, and The Meads Surgery

*For Hailsham:*

- Bridge-side Surgery, Hailsham Medical Group, Quintins Medical Centre

## **Large vaccination centres**

Appointment only vaccinations centres are now available at:

- Crawley Hospital
- The Welcome Building, Eastbourne
- The Brighton Centre

The three centres provide further choice for eligible patients to the local GP-led vaccination services that now cover all patients in Sussex and select pharmacy led services that are also available through the national booking system.

Appointments for three vaccination centres are available through the national booking system. People in the eligible groups, who have not had their vaccination and who live within 60 miles of a service location are receiving letters inviting them to book their vaccination.

People who have received a letter can either use the national booking system to arrange an appointment at a large-scale vaccination centre or pharmacy, or wait to be contacted by their GP led vaccination service (supported by your GP practice) to arrange an appointment.

## **Roving service (care homes and those who are housebound)**

People aged over 65 years old in care homes and those who look after them were identified as the top priority group for the COVID-19 vaccine by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations, due to their high risk from coronavirus.

Sussex has met the government target to vaccinate older care home residents by the end of January 2021.

Residents living in all care homes for older people in Sussex have been offered the COVID-19 vaccine. A small remainder of homes in Sussex have had visits deferred for safety reasons, following a risk assessment, during local outbreaks. These homes – as well as any other residents or staff that were unwell or unable to have a vaccine at the vaccination team's initial visit, will be visited as soon as possible.

Frontline health and care staff across Sussex continue to be able to access the vaccine daily at one of our hospital hubs or vaccination centres.

Vaccinations for those who are housebound are also underway carried out by GP practices teams and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust. You will be contacted when an appointment is available and we are on track to have completed everyone who is housebound by mid February.

## Hospital hubs

There are now seven hospital hub vaccination services in Sussex focused on the vaccination of health and care staff, including care home staff. Health and care staff will be told by their employer how they can book an appointment at one of the following hubs:

- Conquest Hospital, Hastings
- Eastbourne District General Hospital
- Mill View Hospital, Hove
- Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath
- Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton
- St Richards Hospital, Chichester
- Worthing Hospital

## Messages for the public



With thousands of people being vaccinated across Sussex we're doing everything we can to make sure we reach the right people to come forward and have their jab.

We are running a comprehensive communications campaign to reach residents to make sure they know who is eligible and how to book.

Our campaign has three strands, 'When will I get my jab?' 'Where will I get my jab?' 'Why should I get my jab?' and 'What happens after my jab?'

Look out for our messaging on social media, in newsletters, in the local media and on displays around key towns. Please help us by sharing these messages and pointing people to them if you are asked.

Alongside the details of vaccinations we are running myth-busting campaigns, frequently asked questions and are responding to key areas of interests or concern where they arise in specific areas.

We're working closely with community groups, faith groups and other networks to make sure we not only get our messages out by are responding and reacting to where people have questions or there are barriers to people getting the vaccination, we're running social media advertising across different networks to reach those people who don't naturally look to us for information and we're pushing out more traditional advertising in towns across Sussex as well as linking in with partners to reach other audiences.

We'll continue to evolve and adapt the campaign as more and more people become eligible for the jab. In the meantime please help us spread the word, follow us on Twitter and keep an eye on our website.

## Frequently Asked Questions

We know that people want to know more about the vaccination programme and how it will affect them and their loved-ones.

To help us get information out to people and deal with the high volume of enquiries that we are receiving, we are regularly updating our FAQs on the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#), to address common questions and queries.

A selection of those questions are below:

### **I am eligible for the vaccine but haven't heard anything, what should I do?**

To ensure everyone has been offered the opportunity to have the jab, people aged 70 and over who have not yet been vaccinated and who would like to, are now able to contact the national booking service directly to arrange an appointment.

People can go online - [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination) or call 119.

The national booking service shows appointments at the larger vaccination centres and at the select pharmacy led services and allows patients to choose a time slot and location that suits them.

GP led vaccination services are also continuing to work this week, and their teams are contacting people in the eligible groups directly over the coming days to offer appointments at these local services.

If you have an appointment both through the national booking service and then through your local GP led team, please cancel the one you do not want so the slot can be used by someone else. To cancel your appointment through the national booking service, simply visit [Manage my appointments](#) and you will be guided to be able to cancel.

## **Why have some people who had their first dose vaccination after me been given their appointment for their second vaccination and I have not received mine yet?**

Different vaccination services are working in different ways. If you book through the national booking service to arrange an appointment at one of the larger vaccination centres or a pharmacy led service then you will be asked to book a date for your first and second vaccination. If you have your vaccination through the local GP led vaccination services, you will have your first vaccination appointment arranged, and then you will be contacted again to arrange your second appointment. People should not be concerned as they will definitely be invited for their second vaccination before the end of the 12-week interval period.

## **Can I have an allergic reaction to the vaccine?**

As with all vaccines, it is possible to have an allergic reaction to one or more of the ingredients. Fortunately, these are very rare with the COVID-19 vaccines.

The vaccines being offered by the NHS have met the strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Any coronavirus vaccine that is approved must go through all the clinical trials and safety checks all other licensed medicines go through. The MHRA follows international standards of safety.

So far, over ten million people have been given a COVID-19 vaccine in the UK alone, and reports of serious side effects, such as allergic reactions, have been very rare. No long-term complications have been reported. Clinical screening before the vaccination is given reduces the risks of any adverse reaction.

Getting your COVID-19 vaccination is one of the best defences against the virus. It should help reduce the rates of serious illness, reduce pressure on the NHS and social care services, and above all, save lives.

## **I am a full-time informal carer, and understand I will be vaccinated in priority group 6. Can you tell me how the vaccination services will know that I am a carer and to call me with other group 6 people?**

We are currently working with the main carers organisations across Sussex to determine how informal carers will be identified. If you are a member of any carers organisations they will be able to advise you nearer the time, however if not, we would advise you to keep an eye on your local carers organisation's website for updates. These organisations are as follows: Carers Centre for Brighton and Hove - <https://www.thecarerscentre.org/>; Care for the Carers, East Sussex - <https://www.thecarerscentre.org/>; and Carers Support West Sussex - <https://www.carerssupport.org.uk/>

## **I am not sure whether I should be in priority group 4, 'clinically extremely vulnerable' or priority group 6, 'at risk'.**

Most people who are classed as 'clinically extremely vulnerable' will have received a letter from the NHS instructing them to 'shield'. However, there will be people who have only recently become 'clinically extremely vulnerable', and may not yet have received a letter. We would advise you to take a look at the information on the government website via [this link](#), and if you believe you may fall into this category, please contact your GP surgery to

discuss your situation with them. People who have certain underlying health conditions are classed as 'at risk' and in priority group 6, and the main groups can be seen [here](#).

A full FAQ is available here: <https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/faqs-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

**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](mailto:Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net)**