

# COVID-19 Response Stakeholder briefing

11 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 7 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.** 89.1% 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** – 74.4% 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 73.8% have been vaccinated with the remainder are being actively invited for an appointment this week. Data this week shows:

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11/02/21	Sussex		East Sussex	
Priority group	First dose	%	First dose	%
Age 80+	101,612	90.4%	36,277	89.2%
Age 75-79	69,584	89.8%	25,631	89.1%
Age 70-74	79,824	76.8%	28,702	74.4%
Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals	48,097	74.3%	15,532	73.8%

## 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:*

- Bridgeside 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

## **Advice and support if you're self-isolating or shielding**

If you need extra help to get food, medicines or essentials during the coronavirus pandemic, or you are lonely and isolated, there is support available from East Sussex County Council.

You may need extra help for a range of reasons, for example if you're self-isolating with COVID-19 symptoms, following shielding guidance, avoiding public places because you're at higher risk, or quarantining before a medical procedure.

In the first instance, you're encouraged to ask trusted family, friends and neighbours if they can help. If you don't have anyone you trust living nearby, there is community support available.

You can find out about services that can help with specific issues and what to do if you can't get food, medicines, or are lonely and isolated on the community support web pages: [eastsussex.gov.uk/covidsupport](https://eastsussex.gov.uk/covidsupport).

This includes how to ask for help from NHS Volunteer Responders, and how to get in touch with the five community hubs in East Sussex. Anyone who feels they need extra support to cope during the pandemic and has no other way to get help can use a community hub.

If you're identified as clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) to coronavirus you are currently being advised to shield. Visit our website for advice and support if you're in the shielded group: [eastsussex.gov.uk/CEV](https://eastsussex.gov.uk/CEV).

For more advice and information during COVID-19, and to sign up to coronavirus updates from East Sussex County Council, visit: [eastsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://eastsussex.gov.uk/coronavirus).

## Working with our communities

We are working with our diverse communities across Sussex to ensure that people have information about the vaccine, how and when they might be contacted for a vaccination appointment and where they may need to go.

We know that community members are our best methods for sharing information; we now have over 100 Vaccination Champions from communities across Sussex, who play a vital role in ensuring that correct information is shared through their networks and contacts. We also link with many other individuals and groups who liaise with communities to ensure we can reach and hear from as many people as possible.

Over the past week, we have:

- Held meetings with partners and communities in Arun, Crawley and the Havens to talk about issues relating to accessing the Vaccine
- Planned partner and community meetings in Hastings and East Brighton in the next week
- Talked to BAME community members in Brighton and Hove about their questions on and experiences of the vaccine
- Talked to Patient Participation Group members in Hastings and Rother, and Eastbourne, Hailsham and Seaford, about vaccination
- Collected and reviewed insight from some of our groups and communities who experience health inequalities, including our BAME communities, carers, Gypsy Roma and Traveller communities and people with Learning Disabilities
- Produced a community briefing that drew together information on translated resources and support for our BAME and Faith communities
- Added to the [translated resources](#) on our website
- Discussed communication about the vaccine with members of our D/deaf community

Our team are always happy to attend (virtually) any community meetings to hear people's experiences and answer questions- please contact us on [sxccg.publicinvolvement@nhs.net](mailto:sxccg.publicinvolvement@nhs.net)

We want to collect stories from people who have had the vaccine about their experience – not just on what it was like being vaccinated, but what this means for you and your family. If you'd like to talk to us, please do get in contact by emailing [sxccg.publicinvolvement@nhs.net](mailto:sxccg.publicinvolvement@nhs.net) or by calling us on 0800 433 4545.

## 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:

### **Do the vaccines work against different strains of the virus?**

We know that the vaccines currently being given by the NHS appear to work well against the strains of COVID-19 that are dominant in the UK. That is why medical experts encourage eligible people to get their vaccine as soon as they are offered it, because it will prevent the

risk of illness from the strains that pose an immediate threat.

For strains that are dominant in other countries or are yet to emerge, the current vaccines may be less effective at preventing infection, but some evidence suggests they could still be just as effective at preventing serious illness, hospitalisation and death. It may be that updated vaccines or booster jabs are developed in the future. In the meantime, the clinical advice remains that people should get the vaccines that are shown to protect against the strains that pose the greatest risk right now.

### **Can I get the vaccine if I'm not living at my usual address?**

Any resident registered temporarily with a Sussex GP practice is entitled to receive their vaccine through that practice. They will be included in the correct priority group and invited for vaccination as appropriate. If you are not registered with a practice you should call your nearest practice to register as a temporary resident.

If a person has registered but their temporary registration has ended, or the practice has closed its list, they can call this number for help: NHS England Customer Contact Centre on 0300 311 22 33.

### **Will I miss my vaccination if I am in hospital?**

If you are in hospital when you become eligible for your vaccination, you will be able to have it when you are discharged. It does not matter if the next priority group is already being vaccinated; everybody eligible will be able to have the vaccine. However, if you were in hospital with COVID-19 you must wait until at least four weeks after the onset of symptoms or the date of your first positive COVID-19 test.

When you are out of hospital you can call your GP to inform them that you are now ready to have the vaccination, and they will arrange for you to have an appointment at your local GP-led service. Alternatively, you can book online or by telephone to have your vaccination at a large vaccination centre. Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> or dial 119 to book.

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)**