

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**

### **Independent Care Sector briefing: 16 March 2021**

#### **Roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Sussex**

**As we continue to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine across Sussex, we are committed to making sure you are kept up to date. If you have missed any of our regular updates on the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, you can [read them here](#).**

**Please do share this update with your teams, especially regarding information about how they access their vaccination.**

#### **Residents' vaccinations update**

Care home residents and staff were identified in the top priority groups for the vaccine by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations due to their high risk from COVID-19.

Everyone in the [first four eligible groups](#) have already been offered the vaccine including residents and care staff at every eligible care home, and the NHS is on track to have offered it to everyone in the first nine groups by mid-April, in line with the national target. We are now vaccinating those people aged 55 and above as well as those with underlying health conditions.

As at 9 March 2021, 99% of care homes have been visited to vaccinate residents and staff. (99% in East Sussex, 99% in West Sussex, 99% in Brighton & Hove).

All homes catering for the elderly have received a first visit.

A small remainder of homes in Sussex have had visits deferred following a risk assessment, during local outbreaks.

Our team are now focused on working to establish which homes may need a second visit from the vaccination team for first doses, in cases where a number of residents were unable to have their vaccine at the time (due to illness or absence because of hospital admission for example); scheduling visits to the final few homes that had outbreaks and have not yet had a first dose visit; and planning in second dose visits.

#### **Other care settings**

Residents living in Extra Care/supported living/sheltered accommodation have been/are being invited in to receive their vaccination during attendance at a local GP-led vaccination service, in line with the [national priority groups](#).

Housebound residents within groups 1-8 will have been contacted for a home visit to receive the vaccine to make sure they can receive this vital protection.

GP practices and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust are working together to visit residents who need this level of service and are making arrangements for appointments.

## Learning Disability

It was announced nationally at the end of last month that people on the GP Learning Disability Register are now eligible for their COVID-19 vaccination as part of priority group 6.

This will mean more people with learning disabilities can access their vaccination now, and help ensure those most at risk of death or hospitalisation are prioritised for vaccination.

[Read more about this priority group](#)

## Accessible information on Coronavirus and the vaccine

A series of COVID-19 resources in a variety of languages and accessible formats including EasyRead are updated regularly on the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#)

## Health and care staff first dose vaccinations

Thank you to all your staff for your dedication and commitment to looking after our most vulnerable people through some very difficult months. **If you have not already had your vaccine, let us protect you by booking an appointment now. This includes all health and care agency staff.**

We continue to encourage health and care staff to book their first vaccine dose appointment as soon as possible. All eligible health and care workers can [book via the national booking service online](#), or by calling 119. You will be asked for your postcode and will be able to book an appointment at one of the larger vaccination centres and pharmacy-led vaccination services in your area, starting with the nearest.

## Health and care staff second doses

While the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine gives a good immunity to the virus, two doses are needed to have the best chance of full protection. Second doses are being scheduled up to twelve weeks after the first. It is really important that people get both doses to get the greatest benefit from the vaccine.

Most health and care workers have already booked their second dose, usually at the same time they booked or attended their first dose.

Second doses must be delivered by the same vaccination service that delivered the first dose.

When you attend your second dose you must take photo ID to prove your identity. Please also take your NHS number if you have it, as this will make the appointment quicker and easier.

Please attend your second dose appointment. Rescheduling of second dose appointments can only be considered in exceptional circumstances.

If you've had your first dose but do not have an appointment for your second dose, please see below for what you should do.

## I had my first dose at a hospital site...

If you had your first dose at one of the hospitals in Sussex and don't yet have a second dose booked, then you should contact that hospital's vaccination service on the details below:

- Brighton, Royal Sussex County Hospital – [bsuh.covid.vaccination@nhs.net](mailto:bsuh.covid.vaccination@nhs.net)
- Chichester, St Richards Hospital – [wshnt.covidvaccineinfo@nhs.net](mailto:wshnt.covidvaccineinfo@nhs.net)
- Eastbourne District General Hospital – [esht.covid-vaccination@nhs.net](mailto:esht.covid-vaccination@nhs.net)
- East Grinstead, Queen Victoria Hospital (contact only after 8 March) – [qvh.covidvaccinationclinic@nhs.net](mailto:qvh.covidvaccinationclinic@nhs.net)
- Hastings, Conquest Hospital – [esht.covid-vaccination@nhs.net](mailto:esht.covid-vaccination@nhs.net)
- Haywards Heath, Princess Royal Hospital- [bsuh.covid.vaccination@nhs.net](mailto:bsuh.covid.vaccination@nhs.net)
- Hove, Mill View Hospital – [covidvaccine@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk](mailto:covidvaccine@sussexpartnership.nhs.uk)
- Worthing Hospital – [wshnt.covidvaccineinfo@nhs.net](mailto:wshnt.covidvaccineinfo@nhs.net)

### **I had my first dose in a care home where I work...**

If you work in a care home and had your first dose at your place of work, then you should be able to receive your second dose when the home is visited for residents' second doses. The NHS will contact homes to provide more details in due course, including arrangements for staff who are unable to be present for their second dose.

### **I had my first dose at a GP-led local vaccination service...**

GP-led local vaccination services will be contacting people to book second doses if they have not done so already. If ten weeks has passed since you received your first dose and you do not have an appointment for your second dose, please contact the local vaccination service that offered you the first dose.

### **I booked my first dose through the national NHS website or by calling 119...**

If you used the national website or telephone line, you would have booked both doses at the same time. Log in or call up to see the details of your second dose and change it if necessary.

Can I use the national booking system to book a second dose only?

No. You will only be able to book through the national booking system if our records show that you have yet to have your first dose.

### **I can't remember where or when I had my first dose. How can I check?**

Your GP holds your up to date vaccination record and should be able to provide this information.

**If you're a frontline worker working in social care, you are more likely to be exposed to COVID-19 at work. Those working in care homes are at much higher risk of repeated exposure to the infection.** Catching COVID-19 can be serious and may lead to long term complications. These are more common in older staff or those with underlying clinical risk factors.

**If staff have declined to receive the vaccination at the care home setting, they can still access the vaccination now** can [via the national booking service online](#), or by calling 119.

## **Vaccinations for unpaid carers – for information**

The Joint Committee on Vaccines and Immunisation (JCVI) has recommended that people who are in receipt of a Carer's Allowance, or who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill, should now be eligible for vaccination.

In Sussex, carers' organisations and local authorities are working together with the NHS to ensure that all registered unpaid adult carers, including parent carers, can access the vaccine.

More information is available via the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#)

## **Answering your questions**

If you need more information, please do have a look at our frequently asked questions documents in the first instance, which may cover the queries you have. These may also help you to manage and support queries from families, and proactively talk to them about the vaccine.

- [General vaccine FAQs](#)
- DHSC [latest Covid-19 vaccines Q&A](#)

**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 [Sxccq.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:Sxccq.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net)**