

## **COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**

### **Independent Care Sector briefing: 29 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 – second doses**

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.

As at 23 March 2021, more than 80 per cent of care homes in Sussex have a planned visit date for the team to deliver second doses to their residents and available staff who had their first vaccine in the care setting. The remaining homes are currently being scheduled in and will be contacted by the team very soon to plan their visits. Second doses are being scheduled up to twelve weeks after the first.

As at 23 March 2021, 26 care homes have already received a second dose visit from the vaccination team, where both residents and staff have been vaccinated.

Some care homes are also receiving a second visit from the vaccination teams for first doses of the vaccine, 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).

#### **Other care settings**

Residents living in Extra Care/supported living/sheltered accommodation have been 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 1-9 will have been/are being contacted for a home visit to receive both the first and second doses of 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 both the first and second dose appointments.

#### **Accessible information on Coronavirus and the vaccine**

A series of COVID-19 resources in a variety of languages and accessible formats 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.**

All eligible health and care workers can [book via the national booking service online](#), or by calling 119.

If staff have declined to receive the vaccination at the care home setting, they can still book an appointment now.

## Agency care staff first dose vaccinations

Please read and circulate further our [COVID-19 vaccination update specifically for agency care staff](#).

## 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.

For health and care workers who received their vaccination in a hospital hub or vaccination centre, most will have already booked their second dose appointment at the same time they booked or attended for their first dose. If you fall into this category and do not have a second appointment booked, please [contact the relevant location](#).

If you had your first dose at your place of work in a care setting, but do not yet have an appointment for your second dose, you should either

- be given the opportunity to receive this when the home is visited for residents' second doses. Care providers will be notified in advance of the date for the vaccination team's return visit and are encouraged to support staff who received their first dose at work to be present at this time to receive their second dose. If this is not possible, staff can access their second dose through a local vaccination centre and will be contacted directly by the vaccination team that delivered their first dose, to arrange this.
- be directly invited to a local vaccination centre to receive your second dose. You will be contacted directly by the vaccination team that delivered their first dose, to arrange this.

## Unsure or have questions about the vaccine?

- Check out the [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff](#), available in a variety of languages, which has all the information about why you should get vaccinated, side effects and more.

- Use our [online fact checker](#) to get the latest information about the vaccine or for further information take a look at our [frequently asked questions](#). These may also help you to manage and support queries from staff, clients and families, and proactively talk to them about the vaccine.
- If you have a question about the Sussex COVID-19 vaccination programme, which is not answered on our website, please contact us [Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net)