

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Independent Care Sector briefing: 8 April 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.

Sussex update

Across Sussex we have hit the incredible milestone of 1 million vaccinations given. Vaccinations in our area started on 8 December 2020, and have since been taking place in hospitals, GP led vaccination services and vaccination centres.

Teams were working over the weekend providing first and second doses to those in the first nine priority groups, providing them with their vital protection.

There are now just approximately 125,000 people in the priority groups 1-9 who are yet to have their vaccination, and special clinics and services are being arranged to make this as easy as possible for people.

[Read more about the progress](#) to vaccinate our most vulnerable people across the national priority groups 1-9.

A new report published this week by Public Health England suggests that the COVID-19 vaccination programme prevented 6,100 deaths in England up to the end of February 2021. From 8 December 2020 to the end of January 2021, more than 4 million vaccine doses were given to adults aged 70 and over.

Public Health England looked at the number of deaths that took place during that period with the number of deaths that would have been expected, if the vaccine hadn't been given during this time period. From this work, PHE estimates that around 6,100 deaths were prevented to the end of February – 5,900 in those aged 80 and over and 200 in those aged 70 to 79. [Read more about the study](#)

Care home residents' vaccinations update – second doses

Care home residents and staff began receiving their second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine last month. The second dose provides the most protection possible by reinforcing the recipient's immune response.

As at 6 April 2021, 84 care homes had received a second dose vaccination visit.

Of the remaining homes, the majority have a planned date scheduled for a second visit from the vaccination team, so residents and available staff who had their first vaccine in the care setting can receive their second dose. The rest are currently being planned in and will be contacted very soon. Second doses are being scheduled up to twelve weeks after the first.

Care home residents and staff were among the first in Sussex to receive the vaccine earlier this year, after being identified in the top priority groups by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations, due to their high risk from COVID-19.

Some care homes are also receiving a second visit from vaccination teams 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). As at 6 April 2021, 99 per cent of care homes in Sussex have received a first dose vaccination visit, with 93 per cent of residents receiving their first dose.

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](#).

GP practices and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust are working together to visit residents who need this level of service. Housebound residents within groups 1-9 will soon be contacted for a home visit to receive the second dose of the vaccine from mid-April.

Health and care staff first dose vaccinations

We are aware there are some technical issues with the national booking service online, which means it is not currently allowing health and care staff to book for their first dose vaccinations. We are expecting an urgent resolution to this and are committed to making sure all health and care workers can receive their COVID-19 vaccine.

If you haven't yet booked a first dose vaccine appointment, please keep checking the latest information on how to book [via our dedicated Sussex webpage](#), or contact your GP to book your vaccine.

As at 5 April 2021, 81 per cent of staff in all care homes across Sussex had received their first dose vaccination.

[Watch this short film](#) to hear why staff at a Sussex care home made it their priority to get vaccinated.

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 will receive their second dose through a local vaccination centre and will be contacted directly by the same 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.

Mythbuster video: do you know the facts from fiction?

A [video](#) produced by NHS Oxford CCG addresses some of the myths about the COVID-19 vaccine as we all work to encourage those eligible to have their vaccination.

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.
- [COVID-19 resources in a variety of languages and accessible formats](#) are available
- 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