

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Independent Care Sector briefing: 22 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.

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 20 April 2021, 404 care homes (54 per cent) in Sussex had received a second dose visit.

Of the remaining homes, 93 per cent have a scheduled date for a second visit, so residents and available staff who had their first vaccine in the care setting can receive their second dose. This visit date is based on the date of the first dose visit, and we are working to confirm all second dose visit dates with care providers as soon as possible.

All second doses are being scheduled up to twelve weeks after the first.

The remainder of homes who are currently not currently scheduled are being planned in and will be contacted very soon.

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.

Latest update on the AstraZeneca vaccine

Since the start of the pandemic over 4 million COVID-19 infections have been confirmed in the UK causing more than 120,000 deaths.

More than 30 million people have received their first dose of COVID-19 vaccine since the start of the programme, which Public Health England (PHE) estimate has prevented at least 6,000 deaths in the first three months of 2021.

Analysis of infection data since the introduction of the COVID-19 vaccines in the UK demonstrates that vaccination is highly effective and substantially reduces the risk of infection and severe COVID-19 disease.

All medical treatments have potential harms as well as potential benefits.

Recent reports of an extremely rare condition involving the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine and blood have understandably left some people with questions. For the vast majority of people the benefits of being vaccinated far outweigh the risks of blood clotting.

- [Read more about the update and what people should do about their vaccination](#)
- Read the [operational health and care workforce vaccination FAQs on AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine and very rare clotting disorders](#)

Vaccine side effects – clinical telephone support for care home staff

Care staff concerned about any vaccine side effects in those people they are looking after can contact NHS 111 for support.

CQC-registered care homes in Sussex have priority access to NHS 111 clinical teams through Starline, which provides a formal support line for care professionals and domiciliary workers on scene with a patient in a care home. It gives access to rapid clinical advice and rapid response services in your area through direct conversations with GP's; mental health nurses; dental nurses; pharmacists; registered general nurses; advanced nurse practitioners; and paramedics. Care homes across Sussex wanting to access Starline, must [sign an MOU](#) ahead of accessing the service.

Other care setting resident vaccinations

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 are now being contacted for a home visit to receive the second dose of the vaccine.

Health and care staff vaccinations

First dose vaccinations

If you have not already had your COVID-19 vaccine, **let us protect you by booking an appointment now**. All eligible health and care workers, including agency staff, can [book their vaccine appointment online](#), or by telephoning 119.

As at 19 April 2021, 83 per cent of staff in all care homes across Sussex had received their first dose vaccination.

Second dose vaccinations

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:

- Receive this when the home is visited by the vaccination team 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.
- Book your second dose vaccine appointment at an alternative location via the [online booking service](#), or by telephoning 119.
- Contact the specific vaccine service that delivered the first dose in the care home setting (this will be either a local GP service or Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust) to book an appointment. If you are unsure who the provider team was, please ask your care home manager.

Consultation on staff vaccines in care homes

Staff in care homes with older adult residents in England may be required to have a COVID-19 vaccine to protect residents from the virus.

[The Department of Health and Social Care \(DHSC\) announced this via a press release on 14 April](#) and are seeking views on this proposal to make COVID-19 vaccination a condition of deployment in older adult care homes. See [more information on this consultation](#), including a full explanation of the proposal and what this might mean for care homes.

You can submit your views on this matter [via the Department of Health and Social Care's consultation page](#), until 21 May 2021.

Sharing your information through the capacity tracker

Thank you for continuing to update your information on the care home Capacity Tracker. This is critical in allowing us to see which care homes have received second dose visits from the vaccination team to date and enables us plan future visits to ensure we are delivering the vaccine in all care homes, to as many residents and staff as possible.

When completing the tracker, please ensure you complete the questions around 'COVID Vaccination Team visits' as this live data is used to inform the next stages of planning for the vaccine roll out.

For general Capacity Tracker support, please contact necsu.capacitytracker@nhs.net or telephone 0191 691 3729

Across Sussex the majority of care homes are updating the numbers of staff and residents receiving vaccinations. Thank you for your ongoing engagement at this very busy time.

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