

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Independent Care Sector briefing: 10 June 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.

The NHS vaccination programme continues to make strong progress. Thanks to the thousands of people involved, the NHS is now offering vaccines to everyone aged 18 and over as well as millions of health and social care workers, unpaid carers and people at higher clinical risk. Nationally, more than 53 million vaccines have been delivered in total. We are still on course to offer all adults a first dose by the end of July.

Care home residents' vaccinations update – second doses

The majority of care home residents have now received a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The second dose provides the most protection possible by reinforcing the recipient's immune response, particularly against variants of the virus.

As at 8 June 2021, 91 per cent (692)¹ of care homes in Sussex had received a second dose visit from the vaccination team.

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 (JCVI), due to their high risk from COVID-19.

Other care setting resident vaccinations

Residents living in Extra Care/supported living/sheltered accommodation were invited in to receive their vaccinations during attendance at a local GP-led vaccination service, or for those who are registered as housebound with their GP, to receive a visit within their own home.

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](#)

¹ source = combination of both the local data collection and data from the national capacity tracker.

[their vaccine appointment online](#), or by telephoning 119. If you are eligible but not able to book through the national booking service, you can speak to your GP.

As at 7 June 2021, 86 per cent of staff in all care homes across Sussex had received their first dose vaccination, and 70 per cent have received their second dose.

Get paid your normal wage for attending your vaccine

Care staff who need to attend their place of work or another location for the purposes of being vaccinated or tested for COVID-19 must be paid their usual wages to do so, as well as any costs associated with reaching a vaccination or testing facility. [More information on this.](#)

Second dose vaccines brought forward to eight weeks

Following guidance from government and JCVI regarding the Delta (COVID-19B1.617.2) variant circulating in some parts of the country, the NHS is contacting people in the highest priority groups (cohorts 1-9), so they can receive their second dose earlier – at around eight weeks. This means people at greater risk of getting seriously ill due to coronavirus can get maximum protection sooner.

- If you are a member of care staff and had your first dose vaccine at your workplace or at a vaccination centre or GP Practice, you should be contacted directly to bring it forward.
- If you arranged your first and second dose appointments together through the National Booking Service online at nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or via the telephone service 119, you can go back onto the website or call again, to cancel and rebook.

Could the vaccination team visit your care setting to protect your staff?

If you would like to invite a clinician or public health expert to talk to members of your care teams about the vaccination, and answers any questions they may have, please [get in touch](#)

- **In Brighton** the GP Federation HERE is offering pop-up vaccination clinics for ten or more people. If you would like to request a visit from the team to your care setting for staff vaccinations, please contact here.roving@nhs.net or phone the admin team on 07949 570918. Please use a secure nhs.net email address to share any personal information.

Use of the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine

Following reports of an extremely rare condition involving the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine and blood clots, [updated guidance](#) was published on 07 May 2021.

The JCVI has advised a preference for adults under the age of 39 without underlying health conditions to receive an alternative to the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine, only if this does not cause substantial delays in being vaccinated. For this age group, as well as pregnant women, the national booking service only offers appointments for the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

Vaccines during pregnancy

Following recent JCVI guidance, pregnant women and women who are breastfeeding should be offered the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine or Moderna vaccine. All vaccination sites offering the Pfizer-BioNTech or Moderna vaccines must ensure that pregnant women are able to book appointments at the same time as non-pregnant women, based on age and clinical group.

Real-world data from the United States shows that around 90,000 pregnant women have been vaccinated, mainly with mRNA vaccines including Pfizer/BioNTech and Moderna, without any safety concerns being raised. There is no evidence to suggest that the Oxford/AstraZeneca or other vaccines are unsafe for pregnant women, but more research is needed before they can be offered routinely.

You should not stop breastfeeding in order to be vaccinated against COVID-19.

Women trying to become pregnant do not need to avoid pregnancy after vaccination and there is no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines will affect fertility.

More information about the [vaccination in pregnancy](#)

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.

Thank you

Across Sussex we have surpassed an incredible milestone with one million people vaccinated.

Our thanks go to each and every one of you for the role you have played in this – from facilitating the vaccination teams in your care setting, to releasing staff from their shifts to get vaccinated, to encouraging and supporting uptake of this life-saving vaccine.

- [Read a thank you letter from national health and care leaders](#)
- [Watch a short thank you film from Sussex health and care leaders](#)

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

