

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

Sussex Independent Care Sector briefing: 16 September 2021

Roll out of the Sussex Independent Care Sector COVID-19 booster vaccination programme across Sussex

As we roll out the COVID-19 booster vaccine programme across Sussex, we are committed to making sure you are kept up to date. We will be sharing regular updates on the delivery of the COVID-19 booster (and seasonal flu) vaccination programme.

It was [announced this week](#) that individuals who received vaccination in Phase 1 of the COVID-19 vaccination programme (priority groups 1 to 9) should be offered a third dose COVID-19 booster vaccine. This includes:

- those living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults aged 50 years or over
- frontline health and social care workers
- all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19 (as set out in the [green book](#)), and adult carers
- adult household contacts (aged 16 or over) of immunosuppressed individuals

Read the [JCVI statement regarding a COVID-19 booster vaccine programme for winter 2021 to 2022](#).

Booster vaccinations will ensure the protection vaccines provide for those most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19 will be maintained over the winter months.

The latest data from Public Health England and Cambridge University shows vaccines have already saved more than 112,300 lives and prevented 143,600 hospitalisations and 24 million cases in England.

Delivery of the vaccine booster to care homes in Sussex

National guidance for roll out of the vaccine booster is being followed. All those eligible will receive their booster from six months after their second dose.

Vaccine boosters will be delivered through a GP-led vaccination service, managed by the local Primary Care Networks. These teams will cover all care providers in Sussex (in previous phases of the first and second doses of the COVID-19 vaccine, many care homes were served by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust vaccination teams).

We will be working in partnership with care providers to organise and schedule the vaccinations. A detailed plan for each local area is currently being worked up and this will confirm the timelines, requirements and scope any support likely to be required.

The NHS will be in touch with care homes directly to arrange and support the process of vaccinations and the appropriate information sharing and consents needed, including any additional considerations such as mental capacity and safeguarding.

All care home residents will receive the vaccination in the home, where the teams will also vaccinate as many care staff as is possible.

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

We will shortly be writing out to you with more detail about the schedule of vaccinations and thank you for your patience at this time.

Which vaccine will be used?

People will be offered either a full dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine or a half dose of the Moderna vaccine, following scientific evidence showing that both provide a strong booster response. This will be regardless of which vaccine the individual previously had.

Where neither can be offered, for example for those who have an allergy to either vaccine, the JCVI advise that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine can be used for those who received this vaccine for their first and second doses. The Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine is safe, effective and has already saved thousands of lives in the UK and around the world.

Co-administration of the flu vaccine

The medicines regulator MHRA has determined that co-administration of the COVID-19 vaccine booster and the seasonal flu vaccination is safe and can go ahead. We are awaiting formal guidance regarding giving both to individuals at the same time. We will update you as soon as possible when this is confirmed.

In some places, where flu vaccine stock has already been received by local GP services, delivery of this single vaccine has already begun to be rolled out – giving protection to vulnerable people as soon as possible. Where this is the case and the flu vaccine has already been given, residents will receive their COVID-19 booster vaccine on a separate occasion/visit from the team.

New legislation for staff who visit and carry out work in CQC-registered care homes

The Government has announced [new legislation](#) that requires all care home workers and anyone entering a care home to provide evidence via the [NHS COVID Pass service](#) of receiving both doses of an approved COVID-19 vaccine (unless they are exempt under the regulations), from 11 November 2021.

Health and care organisations across Sussex are working closely together to support all staff either working in or visiting CQC-registered care homes in a professional capacity, to receive their vaccination as soon as possible.

In order for individuals to be fully vaccinated when the new national regulations come into force, a first dose will need to be received by today (Thursday 16 September). This then allows enough time for a second dose to be received before the effective date.

If you have not already had your vaccine, let us protect you from COVID-19 by booking an appointment now. Vaccinations can be booked via the [NHS Website](#) or accessed via one of the many [walk in clinics](#) across Sussex, with lots of availability each day across our sites.

Thank you

Thank you again for your continuing dedication and support for our population, each other, and the Sussex system. We have so much to be proud of in the way we all, as a health and care system, have responded to the pandemic and the roll out of the vaccination programme throughout 2020 and 2021.