

18th January 2021

4th Stakeholder update: COVID-19 vaccination programme in Dorset

Dear colleagues,

This is the fourth stakeholder update we have issued on the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Dorset. We hope our stakeholder updates have been helpful. We will share more about the programme as soon as we are able. Do let us know if you have questions or feedback about this update by contacting us here: communications@dorsetccg.nhs.uk

Summary

The NHS is working extremely hard to deliver the COVID-19 vaccination to the most vulnerable local people, following national guidance. The programme is being delivered by partners across the health and care system in Dorset working together. Nurses, doctors, health and care workers, support and logistical staff, primary care teams, and volunteers are doing all they can to deliver it.

We have made very good progress in a very short space of time - delivering many thousands of vaccines to the most vulnerable in our local communities - since the vaccination first became available.

It's important to remember that this is the biggest vaccination programme that the NHS has ever undertaken. This has also been a phased roll-out that has taken place at speed, with sites going live at different times as soon as they are able to. It will take us time to get to everyone.

Thanks to the hard work of the Dorset team, the good news is that there are now 20 vaccination sites live across Dorset, with all 18 of Dorset's primary care sites offering vaccine, all of our acute hospital hubs and we've just opened a large vaccination centre at the Bournemouth International Centre (BIC), run by Dorset HealthCare; as well as a roving service for care homes and the housebound.

As we roll out the vaccines, it's vital that we all continue to stay at home to protect the NHS and save lives.

When will the most vulnerable get their jab?

The vaccine in Dorset is being delivered in line with the national guidance issued by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) which means those people who are most at risk will be invited first.

See link here to the national advice: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-advice-on-priority-groups-for-covid-19-vaccination-30-december-2020>

Where are people being offered a jab?

The vaccine is being rolled out locally by the NHS via a number of ways, including:

- **GP-led vaccination services**, which are now up and running across Dorset. All of Dorset's 18 primary care networks are now offering vaccine. These services involve groups of GPs working together as primary care networks to vaccinate the most vulnerable to their collective patients in one location; this means that you may not be

vaccinated by your local GP; you may be required to travel to a different site nearby to where you live;

- **Hospital hubs**, hubs at Dorchester, Bournemouth and Poole hospitals are live, with a focus on health and social care staff at the moment;
- **Roving service** with the vaccine being taken into care homes, and into people's own homes if they are housebound and unable to attend a vaccination site. This is being co-ordinated locally with your GP service and you will be told when the vaccinating team will be visiting you;
- A network of **large vaccination centres** across the country, which will be able to offer the vaccine to large numbers of people, is currently going live.

The large vaccination centre at the Bournemouth International Centre is one of several places people can get their jab - if you already have an appointment through your GP at a local vaccination centre, or at a local hospital hub, please attend that appointment. This will prevent wasted appointments that the NHS cannot fill at short notice.

The large vaccination centres offer an important additional option for people who are eligible. But we want to be clear that this is just another option. If you can't travel or you would rather wait for an appointment closer to home, you can choose to do that, and your local GP-led service will be in touch soon to offer an alternative.

See more about the large vaccination centre in Dorset below.

Across the country, community pharmacies are coming online as more vaccine supplies come on stream.

A current list of vaccination sites in Dorset is below.

[COVID-19 Vaccination sites in Dorset*](#)

GP-led vaccination services

- Atrium Health Centre (*Mid Dorset Primary Care Network*)
- Poole Ferry Port (*Poole Central Primary Care Network*)
- Hamworthy Club, Wimborne (*Poole North Primary Care Network*)
- Marine Surgery (*South Coast Medical Group*)
- Wareham Hospital (*Purbeck Primary Care Network*)
- St Albans Medical Centre, East Way, Bournemouth (*Central Bournemouth Primary Care Network*)
- Beaufort Road Practice, Bournemouth (*Bournemouth East Collaborative Network*)
- Westbourne Medical Centre, Bournemouth, (*Poole Bay & Bournemouth Primary Care Network*)
- Stour Surgery (*Christchurch Primary Care Network*)
- Talbot Medical Centre (*North Bournemouth Primary Care Network*)
- Heatherview Medical Centre (*Shore Medical Primary Care Network*)
- Saint Leonard's Hospital (*Wimborne & Ferndown Primary Care Network and Crane Valley Primary Care Network*)
- Weymouth Community Hospital (*Weymouth & Portland Primary Care Network*)
- Bridport Medical Centre (*Jurassic Coast Primary Care Network*)

- Sturminster Newton Medical Centre (*Blackmore Vale Partnership*)
- The Digby Hall, Sherborne (*Sherborne Area Network*) Whitecliff Surgery, Blandford (*Blandford Primary Care Network*)

Hospital hubs (acute hospitals), with a focus on health and social care at the moment.

- Dorset County Hospital, Dorchester
- Poole Hospital - part of University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- Royal Bournemouth Hospital - part of University Hospitals Dorset NHS Foundation Trust

Large vaccination centre

- Bournemouth International Centre, Purbeck Hall

*Last updated 18/01/2021

Large vaccination centre opens in Bournemouth

Following several weeks of hard work by Dorset HealthCare and its partners, the county's large vaccination centre at the Bournemouth International Centre is opening its doors from 18 January.

The community and mental health trust will be running the new service, which will be vaccinating hundreds of local people every day, focussing first on groups of people who are most at risk.

Working with health and care partners including Dorset Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and BCP Council, Dorset HealthCare has transformed the BIC's Purbeck Hall – normally used for seasonal ice skating and other large events – into a large clinic to deliver vaccinations.

A dedicated team of staff, supported by volunteers from local communities, will now run the centre 12 hours a day, 7 days a week to roll out vaccinations as quickly as possible.

The centre will take bookings through a national system and people will receive a written invitation to book when it's their turn, according to the [national prioritisation](#) by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

Further information is available on the Dorset HealthCare website:

<https://www.dorsethealthcare.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-service>

You can see a film charting the set-up of the centre here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1KqihPERFJ4>

Health and social care workers

The NHS is working with your employer to signpost you to the most appropriate venue for your vaccination to take place. Please contact your employer for details and not your local GP.

Frequently asked questions

Is the NHS confident the vaccines are safe?

Yes. The NHS will not offer any COVID-19 vaccinations to the public until independent experts have signed off that it is safe to do so. The MHRA, the official UK regulator, have said that both of these vaccines have good safety profiles and offer a high level of protection, and we have full confidence in their expert judgement and processes. As with any medicine, vaccines are highly regulated products. There are checks at every stage in the development and manufacturing process, and continued monitoring once it has been authorised and is being used in the wider population.

Will the vaccines work with the new strain?

There is no evidence currently that the new strain will be resistant to the vaccines we have, so we are continuing to vaccinate people as normal. Scientists are looking now in detail at the characteristics of the virus in relation to the vaccines. Viruses, such as the winter flu virus, often branch into different strains but these small variations rarely render vaccines ineffective.

Why are you postponing second doses?

The [UK Chief Medical Officers have agreed](#) a longer timeframe between first and second doses so that more people can get their first dose quickly, and because the evidence shows that one dose still offers a high level of protection. This decision will allow us to get the maximum benefit for the most people in the shortest possible time and will help save lives.

Can people pick what vaccine they want?

No. Any vaccines that the NHS will provide will have been approved because they pass the MHRA's tests on safety and efficacy, so people should be assured that whatever vaccine they get, it is worth their while.

Who gets the vaccine first?

The order in which people will be offered the vaccine is based on advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), see here for more:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/priority-groups-for-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-advice-from-the-jcvi-30-december-2020>

In line with this guidance, in this initial phase vaccines will be prioritised for those 80 years of age and over, those who live and work in care home, and frontline health and social care staff.

Who is getting vaccinated now?

Vaccinations in England started on 8 December, with Margaret Keenan becoming the first person to be vaccinated in Coventry. Across the country, care home staff, those aged 80 years of age and over, as well as NHS staff considered to be a risk will be offered vaccination in line with JCVI recommendations, and we are now rolling out vaccines in care homes. Figures on the number of people vaccinated are published weekly and can be found here: <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/details/healthcare>

Can any member of the public be vaccinated? Can they just walk in to a service?

People will be offered vaccinations in line with recommendations from the independent JCVI. The NHS will contact people when it is their turn. People will need an appointment to get their vaccine; most people will be invited by letter from their GP practice or the national programme.

Is there a central source of information about the vaccine and programme?

Yes, please see the NHS COVID website, here is the link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

Shall I wait to be contacted?

Yes. The NHS will get in touch when it's your turn to be vaccinated.

What can I do to help support the programme?

We'd be grateful for your support in sharing these key messages:

- please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, we will contact you;
- when we do contact you, please attend your booked appointments;
- and please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives.

Find out more

[Go to the national NHS website for more information on the coronavirus vaccine.](#)

[Read COVID-19 Vaccination, guide for older adults. Available in multiple languages from GOV.UK.](#)

[Read COVID-19 Vaccination, why you are being asked to wait. Available in multiple languages from GOV.UK.](#)