

Derby and Derbyshire COVID-19 vaccination programme | Stakeholder bulletin #2

Headline summary

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- Derby and Derbyshire continues to work in partnership across the public sector to tackle the coronavirus pandemic.
- The NHS remains open for business and continues to deliver non-covid services, including cancer care, as well as meeting fluctuating demand for covid care in our hospitals.
- The COVID-19 vaccination programme has started; Chesterfield Royal Hospital and Royal Derby Hospital have been vaccinating patients and staff in priority groups since Tuesday 8th December and this is going well.
- The vaccination programme rolls out to GP practices this weekend, starting in Dronfield and Ripley and moving to many more sites across the city and county in the coming weeks.
- Specific vaccination sites are still being confirmed and prepared to deliver the vaccine and will be confirmed in due course.
- Patient information and FAQs about the vaccine are available at www.joineducarederbyshire.co.uk. The site will continue to be updated with the latest information.
- The NHS will contact patients when their vaccination is available. Patients should not call their GP practice to ask about their vaccine.

Additional context and supporting information

The COVID-19 vaccination programme launched on 8 December 2020 and is the largest ever undertaken by the NHS and the most important positive development of the pandemic to date. The challenges of scale, complexity, nature of the vaccine and the logistics of delivering vaccinations in the shortest possible timescales sit alongside the existing priorities of treating both covid and non-covid patients and winter pressures. Patient safety and wellbeing are the two most important elements of our vaccination programme which you will see reflected in this update.

In Derbyshire the NHS has responded to the pandemic and now the vaccination programme with the drive, determination, care and compassion we have seen in NHS organisations across the country. The strength of our local partnerships and collaborative approach has seen our health and care system working together at every level to ensure that our public and patients receive timely and accurate information and support to help contain the virus, the best treatment we can provide should they become infected and we are now working together to provide the best vaccination programme we can.

We are acutely aware that the pandemic has impacted significantly on people’s mental health and wellbeing and that uncertainty and lack of, or poor quality information, is a critical factor in this. Since the

start of the pandemic, we have seen some information presented clearly and unequivocally which helps people to understand scenarios and actions they need to take to protect themselves and those around them. We have also seen a lot of speculation and more recently, disinformation, particularly with regard to the vaccination programme. Our intention is that we will do our best to share information and updates that are confirmed but we are aware that this will not always meet expectations in terms of news on developments and timescales.

In terms of developments since the launch of the vaccination programme last week, our two acute hospitals, Royal Derby and Chesterfield Royal were in the initial 50 hospitals in the country to receive the first deliveries of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine. The detailed preparations and state of readiness at both hospitals meant that in Derbyshire we started delivering vaccinations from 8.00 am on the first day. Both hospitals used their allocated stocks to vaccinate people from the three priority groups described nationally as 80+ year olds, the most vulnerable health and social care workers and care home staff. Work is underway to increase the pace of delivery to the point where we can deliver the maximum number of vaccinations whilst continuing to optimise patient safety.

Week two of the national rollout of the vaccine is focused upon delivering the vaccine through primary care and in Derbyshire our Primary Care Networks are leading in conjunction with their member practices to bring vaccinations into community settings. The logistical challenges of taking the vaccines to more local sites have been significant but as we saw in our acute hospitals, colleagues have worked around the clock to find and enact solutions and as a result, this week will see the launch of the Primary Care Network led programme in Dronfield and Ripley. Others will quickly follow as we move towards a much broader programme of vaccination delivery from a range of accessible sites across the county.

Next steps

In the early part of 2021 we anticipate delivery of the next vaccine which we expect to be easier to handle and store without the need for the complex logistics solutions that the current vaccine presents. This will enable vaccinations to be more accessible as we seek to bring the programme further into the community. This additional capacity is important as we start to move through the priority groups which will inevitably mean a significant increase in the number of people we need to vaccinate and the speed at which we are able to do this. We recognise that whilst we are making good progress, there is no room for complacency and that we will continue to meet and address challenges on a daily basis.

In the meantime, we have immediate priorities including continual learning from the delivery process and from people sharing their experiences as we want to ensure that our patients feel safe and reassured at all stages of the vaccination process. Our system partners will continue to play a vital role as we work together to take the programme to the next stage and beyond. From a public perspective we ask that people do not contact their GP and other health and care providers to ask about their vaccination to avoid distracting them from the tasks in hand – we will be in direct contact as we invite people for their vaccination in priority order. We know that this will not meet everyone's expectations and ask for your support in sharing this important message.

To help keep people updated we have created a page on the Joined Up Care Derbyshire website for all the latest information including frequently asked questions and you can find this via the link [here](#). We will continue to keep you updated on progress and if you have any specific questions in the meantime, please contact us via ddccg.communications@nhs.net and we will respond to you as quickly as we can.

What you can do to help

Help us to save lives by reinforcing key messages in this bulletin with your key contacts. Please use your

social media accounts to share only official messages from Government and NHS websites and accounts to help avoid misinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine being shared online.

Contact

If you have any feedback, or questions, please email us at: ddccg.enquiries@nhs.uk. We are sure you will understand that we are very busy, but we will endeavour to respond to all queries within 72 hours.

Disclaimer:

While every effort has been made to ensure the contents of this bulletin are accurate and up-to-date you will appreciate that the situation relating to the coronavirus pandemic can change rapidly and so NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG do not accept any responsibility of any omission as it is not deliberate. Nevertheless, we will appreciate provision of accurate information to improve our work. Where links are provided to external content, NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG holds no responsibility for such content or accuracy.

