

9 December 2020



## Derby and Derbyshire COVID-19 vaccination programme | Stakeholder bulletin #1

Dear partners

Yesterday marked a turning point in the battle against COVID-19 as the NHS became the first healthcare system in the world to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to those most at risk.

Delivering the vaccination programme at scale is hugely complex and will be one of the greatest challenges the NHS has ever faced, but also one of the most important.

It is this complexity and acknowledgment that the plans to roll out the vaccination programme are ever evolving and subject to rapid change that has prompted us into thinking that there is merit in producing a dedicated stakeholder update about the COVID-19 vaccination programme. For example, just today the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency advised that people with a history of significant allergic reactions should not have the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination.

This is the first of what will be regular briefings to keep you updated on the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Derby and Derbyshire. It will set out the latest local position and bring together key information. The frequency of the update will be determined by developments in the programme. Each bulletin will be made available on the Joined Up Care Derbyshire website.

With best wishes and stay safe

Dr Steve Lloyd  
Medical Director  
NHS Derby and Derbyshire Clinical Commissioning Group

## An historic day

Thanks to an incredible amount of hard work and planning, both Royal Derby Hospital and Chesterfield Royal Hospital were among the dozens of hospitals across the country to give the first vaccinations against COVID-19 yesterday. This historic day was captured by BBC East Midlands Today.

Those aged 80 and over have been receiving the vaccine, as have care home staff and other health care workers, and more will follow over the coming days and weeks. Colleagues in primary care settings across Derbyshire are also preparing to play their part in this major vaccination programme.

Many people have asked whether the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine contains any meat derivatives or porcine products and we can confirm here that the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccine is vegan/vegetarian friendly and we include more details on this below. We are aiming to publish a more detailed FAQ document on the Joined Up Care Derbyshire website in the next 24 hours.

Yesterday was an important day for Derbyshire and for the country and we're proud to be part of this world first for the NHS, which is the start of the largest vaccination programme in our history. However, we

shouldn't be under any illusions that this will be a marathon, not a sprint, and we cannot let down our guard. Wherever people live across the urban, suburban and rural areas of Derbyshire, they still need to follow the advice on 'hands, face, space' and follow the rules for their local area restrictions. The public have an important part to play to support the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination programme:

- please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, we will contact you;
- when we do contact you, please attend your booked appointments;

It is important for people to remain patient, as primary care providers across Derbyshire are developing plans to deliver the vaccine as quickly and efficiently as possible.

## Is the vaccine vegan/vegetarian friendly?

Yes, the Pfizer vaccine does not contain any meat derivatives or porcine products. If, and when, further vaccines are approved we will publish information about known allergens or ingredients that are important for certain faiths, cultures and beliefs.

A full list of ingredients for the qualitative and quantitative composition of the vaccine and a full list of the excipient composition of the vaccine can be found at point 6 in the [Information for Recipients of the Pfizer/BioNTech Vaccine](#). For further information, please see [information for healthcare professionals and the public about the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine](#).

## 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](mailto: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.

Joined Up Care  
Derbyshire

