

Covid-19 vaccination programme: Stakeholder briefing

Thursday 31 December 2020



Gill May,
Director of Nursing and
Quality

“The past weeks have been incredibly busy for everyone working in the NHS and our partner organisations. Once again we find ourselves under pressure as we work to maintain usual services, manage the influx of patients due to Covid-19 and undertake planning and delivery of the Covid vaccination campaign. I would like to thank everyone for all the work that continues to be done.

As we enter the New Year we have the good news that a second Covid-19 vaccine has been authorised for use – this has rightly been heralded as a game-changing moment. However, we must remember that distributing the vaccine is an enormous undertaking by the NHS and we must all remain patient as supply comes on stream and delivery plans are implemented. We have heard from many people who are concerned that they have not been invited to have their vaccination and wish to reassure everyone that the roll out is being phased over time. This ensures we first vaccinate those who are the most vulnerable and at risk. In BSW alone we have over 50,000 people who are aged 80 years and over so this will take a little time. We have started to vaccinate residents in some care homes this week with more sites being visited in the next couple of weeks and months.

Let’s hope that 2021 is a better one for us all and finally may I wish everyone a happy New Year.”

At a glance: the latest coronavirus vaccine developments in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire

- Planning for the delivery of the newly approved AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine is underway. First doses are expected to begin to arrive from next week.
- Primary Care Networks have been operating local vaccination sites across the region.
- Twelve more local vaccination services will open in the first two weeks of January 2021, giving us full cover across the region.
- Salisbury Foundation Trust has now begun operating as a Hospital Hub vaccinating the over 80s, care home staff and priority NHS colleagues.



Photos are of Mr and Mrs Pratt from Salisbury, who were one of the first people aged over 80 to be vaccinated in the Salisbury area

- The AstraZeneca/Oxford vaccine has been approved as a two-dose schedule, with the second dose to be given after 4 weeks, but within 10-12 weeks of the first.
- Following a review of clinical evidence and latest public health data, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and the Department for Health and Social Care have also yesterday updated guidance for the NHS on the second dose for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. It recommends that the second dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is also offered between 3 and 12 weeks after the first.

This means that:

1. For those who have received their first vaccination already and are due to receive their second dose next week (w/c 4 January), no further action is required. These individuals should still attend for their second appointments unless informed otherwise.
2. For those scheduled to receive their first vaccination on or after Monday 4 January, an appointment to receive the second dose should be scheduled within 12 weeks of that date.
3. For those who have received their first dose and are scheduled to receive their second on or after 9 January, the second dose appointment will be rescheduled to between 10-12 weeks after the first dose based on individual circumstances.

Patients still need to receive their second dose of the vaccine, and it is important that they attend their second appointment once scheduled.

- This is an extensive vaccination programme and it will take time to roll it out to the general population. Vaccination sites will issue vaccine invitations in order of priority as advised by the JCVI, so it is not necessary for individuals contact GPs about this. Everyone should continue to follow social distancing rules and to self-isolate and seek a test at the first sign of showing coronavirus symptoms.