

Covid-19 vaccination programme: Stakeholder briefing

Thursday 18 March 2021



Gill May,
Director of Nursing and
Quality

"We have reached a bittersweet moment in our vaccination journey.

"It is fantastic news that more than 25 million people, almost half the entire adult population, have now received their first dose of the coronavirus vaccine.

"This incredible progress is a testament to what can be achieved when colleagues, partners and friends join forces to focus on one common goal, and it is this sense of unity that we must continue to hold as we work together to overcome the challenges of a reduced vaccine supply, which the government announced last night.

"I would like to offer reassurance to all those reading this update that all people in Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire with a vaccine appointment already booked will receive their vaccination as planned.

"We'll also be doing all we can to give the first dose to everybody currently eligible, but not yet vaccinated, before 31 March.

"The government's announcement may cause some anxiety, especially among people who are eager to have their vaccination, but the unbelievable progress we have made since December means that, even with a reduced vaccine supply during April, we remain on track to reach our targets.

"Thank you for continued support during these unpredictable times, and please do share this message of reassurance with your internal and external audiences."

At a glance: the latest coronavirus vaccine developments in BSW

- In the seven days to Wednesday 17 March, our vaccine teams carried out more than 36,000 vaccinations, which takes our overall total close to the 390,000 mark
- The exact number of vaccinations, including first and second doses, currently stands at 386,267 – approximately half our adult population
- We are now working with our communities who will be observing Ramadan in the coming weeks, and we ask our partners to support us with this promotion
- The current advice from the British Islamic Medical Association is that having the vaccine does not invalidate fasting, and all practicing Muslims invited to be vaccinated in the coming weeks should do so

- Downton Memorial Hall in Salisbury is the latest venue to be added to the growing list of vaccine sites in our region, with the team at ABC Drug Store in Salisbury carrying out the vaccination service. This service is scheduled to go live on 22 March.
- The vaccine hospital hub at Salisbury District Hospital reopened this week to begin second doses for staff and some patients, with the hospital hub at the Royal United Hospital in Bath due to open at the beginning of next week
- Our outreach programme continues to build momentum, and we are pleased to say that our local boating community will be able to be vaccinated when a specially adapted vaccine boat takes to the water after the Easter weekend
- We also continue to spread the vaccine message among our traveller communities, and have worked with Paddy Doherty, star of My Big Fat Gypsy Wedding, to record an appeal video that has been shared far and wide across social media

Vaccination progress to date

