

Covid-19 vaccination programme: Stakeholder briefing

Thursday 4 March 2021



Gill May,
Director of Nursing and
Quality

“Our vaccination total now stands at more than 315,000, which means we have already vaccinated more than two thirds of all people included in the top nine priority groups as outlined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

“This progress has been monumental, and I couldn’t be more proud of every single person who has helped make the rollout of the coronavirus vaccine, which – let’s not forget – is the largest vaccination programme ever undertaken, a success.

“But, for every grand achievement, we know there are always going to be minor sticking points that require us to work that bit harder to overcome.

“This week, we heard from many people in Swindon who were concerned after receiving an invitation to book a vaccine appointment at one of the large centres located out of town.

“We know the prospect of travel can cause many to feel anxious, which is why we have worked hard to share the message that all people contacted by the national booking system will still be contacted by their GP practice with details of how to be vaccinated locally.

“At present, Swindon is well served by vaccine clinics, including two recently-added pharmacy sites in Highworth and Lawn, but we are always looking at what other venues can be introduced to help make the vaccination process as convenient as possible.

“Tonight sees the CCG hold its first Opening Doors event - via Zoom - for people from black, Asian and minority ethnic backgrounds to share their concerns about the vaccine programme.

“It is incredibly important for us to hear from people from all walks of life, and I hope you can help us to promote this event to your respective audiences.”

At a glance: the latest coronavirus vaccine developments in BSW

- In the seven days to Wednesday 3 March, our vaccination teams carried out more than 43,000 vaccinations, which took our overall total past the 300,000 mark
- This continued momentum means we have almost completed the vaccination of people in priority group five, and puts us firmly on track to complete the vaccination of people in priority group six this month

- We know that as the vaccination invitation list is widened, we will need to increase capacity. This may involve the introduction of new vaccine sites, as well as exploring the option of administering the vaccine in different ways, such as introducing drive-thru vaccine sites
- Patients who are due to have surgery that requires an overnight stay within the next four weeks will be prioritised and offered a vaccine ahead of their admission to hospital
- We are looking at establishing a vaccinator training programme which, when up and running, will ensure we have a large pool of clinically-trained staff who are able to carry out vaccinations
- Health and care staff across the region who are currently awaiting their second dose will soon be able to book their appointment via a dedicated online booking system
- We have responded to reports of apparent queue-jumping by issuing a warning that any person found to not be currently eligible for the vaccine, but falsely claiming to be so, will be turned away from the vaccination centres

Vaccination programme to date

