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5 January 2021



## Derby and Derbyshire COVID-19 Vaccination Programme | Stakeholder Bulletin #7

Dear Colleague,

Welcome to the second edition of our daily Covid-19 vaccination update for Derbyshire. As promised this will be a concise update on daily developments and imminent actions which will appear in the first item below.

I will leave the key information in each section below so that you can refer back to the key milestones and dates should you need to.

I would be extremely grateful if you could share with appropriate colleagues as there is significant interest and we are sharing a lot of information across each week but it is difficult to reach everyone so thank you in advance of your cooperation.

**Dr Steve Lloyd**  
**Medical Director**  
**NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG**



## Latest developments

**Important reminder** – we understand that people in eligible groups for the vaccine are keen to know when they will receive it. We want to assure everyone that GPs in Derbyshire in areas already running are continuing to work round the clock to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations or working to finalise arrangements in those areas getting ready to launch.

Patients will be contacted when their vaccine is available and we are asking everyone to avoid contacting their surgery in the meantime. It is possible that people are hearing of neighbours receiving the vaccination, but this will only be because they are registered with a GP practice that is in the first round for the vaccination programme rollout, or are a member of NHS or adult care staff.

Everyone has an important part to play and we're asking people to please remember the following:

- please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, we will contact you:

- when we do contact you, please attend your booked appointments;
- please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives.

If you have any questions on this please do not hesitate to contact us at [ddccg.communications@nhs.net](mailto:ddccg.communications@nhs.net).

**Correction** - yesterday we said that Thornbrook Surgery is in Whaley Bridge and this should have said Chapel-en-le-Frith. Thank you to the people who spotted this and apologies for any confusion caused.

## Daily statistics

The latest R number is estimated at **1.1 to 1.3** with a daily infection growth rate range of **+1% to +6%** as of 23 December 2020. Data are also available to [download](#) as an easy to read document.



## Vaccine updates and initial FAQs

### What has changed to make 12 weeks safe for the dose interval when it wasn't last week?

- Having studied evidence on both the Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines the JCVI has advised that we should prioritise giving as many people in at-risk groups their first dose, rather than providing two doses in as short a time as possible.
- The four UK Chief Medical Officers agree with JCVI that at this stage of the pandemic prioritising the first doses of vaccine for as many people as possible on the priority list will protect the greatest number of at risk people overall in the shortest possible time and will have the greatest impact on reducing mortality, severe disease and hospitalisations and in protecting the NHS and equivalent health services
- This is because the evidence shows that one dose of either vaccine provides a high level of protection from Covid-19.

### Should both vaccines be given in two doses?

- The MHRA authorisation includes conditions that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine should be administered in two doses, with the second dose given between 4 and 12 weeks after the first
- The MHRA has also clarified that for the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, the interval between doses

- must be at least 3 weeks (21 days). This also aligns with the EMA position on the Pfizer vaccines
- For both vaccines, data provided to MHRA demonstrate that whilst efficacy is optimised when a second dose is administered both offer considerable protection after a single dose, at least in the short term. For both vaccines the second dose completes the course and is likely to be important for longer term protection.

#### **Does one dose of the vaccine offer protection?**

- The JCVI has recommended that as many people on the JCVI priority list as possible should be offered a first vaccine dose as the initial priority. This is because one dose of the vaccine offers important protection and we want to reach as many at risk people as possible in order to offer protection until the second dose can be administered.
- They have advised that the second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine may be given between 3 to 12 weeks following the first dose, and that the second dose of the AstraZeneca (Oxford) vaccine may be given between 4 to 12 weeks following the first dose. The clinical risk priority order for deployment of the vaccines remains unchanged and applies to both vaccines. Both are very effective vaccines.

#### **What about people who have already had their 2<sup>nd</sup> dose after 3 weeks? Is this safe? Will they be protected?**

- Yes. The updating of the dosing interval is not a safety issue but is designed to maximise the impact of the vaccination programme, as advised by the JCVI.

## **Hospital Hubs**

The hubs launched on 8 December and have been working at pace to deliver vaccines to the priority groups described nationally as:

- Patients in the 80+ cohort
- The most vulnerable care home staff
- Health staff in priority and most vulnerable groups

From the start they have worked through a challenging schedule but have utilised their stocks on schedule and continued to achieve the same level of performance on their vaccine re-ordering cycles. One of the immediate challenges is to ensure that vaccinators are included as a priority group to ensure that we protect those who maybe most at risk.

## **Primary Care Networks (PCNs)**

The first four Derbyshire PCNs went live as part of the Wave 3 rollout between 18 December and 22 December and these are:

- Stubley
- Ripley
- Newholme
- Long Eaton

PCNs are operating 12 hour days to maximise the number of people vaccinated each day and over the New Year bank holiday weekend we saw significant numbers of people receiving their vaccinations

Alongside operating the PCN based vaccinations our PCNs have also been delivering vaccinations in care homes. This has been done in conjunction with DHU Healthcare who have played a pivotal role in terms of capacity and they have also supported solutions to the complex logistics.

This joined up approach has enabled our system to deliver high volumes of activity in a short timescale and to maximise available times on weekdays, weekends and Christmas and New Year bank holidays. The fact that some areas have completed or almost completed their care home vaccinations is testament to the work that has taken place so far.

## Next Steps

We have used the learning from the rollout of the first PCNs to refine our planning approach and this will stand us in good stead for the next phase of the PCN rollout which will commence on Wednesday of this week (6 January).

Each of the following sites have been approved by NHSEI and have completed their readiness assessments in the last couple of days so these can now be named as:

- Derby Arena (Derby)
- Babington Hospital (Belper)
- St Oswald's Hospital (Asbourne)
- Thornbrook Surgery (Whaley Bridge)
- Sharley Park (Clay Cross)

The above sites are ready to deliver and patients are already being invited for their vaccinations. It is important to note that the starting times for vaccinations on the launch day are based on a tightly controlled schedule and dependent upon the delivery of the vaccines into site which can be impacted by weather and traffic conditions.

The final phase of the PCN rollout for this round will take place during week commencing 11 January and because the sites are still subject to final approval and readiness assessments I have provided the areas and will confirm the sites by name as soon as I am able to do so:

- Clowne
- Swadlincote
- Chesterfield
- Buxton
- Shirebrook

These are the initial sites which have been assessed as being able to store and deliver the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. As the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccination rolls out, we hope that subject to the distribution requirements for the vaccine, it may become available from a wider number of sites, including more GP practices, pharmacies and other locations. We await further guidance on this but will share news as soon as it becomes available.

## Media

We have seen some great support from our local media which has helped us to promote the importance of getting the vaccine into our priority groups with extensive coverage on BBC and ITV news channels, local radio, press media and also social media. Please see some of the examples below:



## Tomorrow's Edition

My update tomorrow will include:

- Latest developments
- Frequently Asked questions

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 three working days.

**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 does 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.

