

COVID-19 Response Stakeholder briefing

02 February 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination update: East Sussex

Welcome to your regular briefing from the Sussex Health and Care Partnership on the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in East Sussex.

Introduction

The COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to be rolled out across our communities. The top line brief from this week is:

- We are on course to have offered the COVID-19 vaccination to the top four priority groups by mid-February, in line with the national target;
- Residents living in all care homes for older people in East Sussex have been offered the COVID-19 vaccine. A small remainder of homes in Sussex have had visits deferred for safety reasons, following a risk assessment, during a local outbreak;
- All registered patients who are eligible for a vaccine has access to a GP-led vaccination service;
- A large vaccination centre opened at Welcome House in Eastbourne on Monday 02 February, offering access to eligible people across Sussex alongside the other centres at the Brighton Centre and Crawley Hospital;
- Seven hospital hubs are currently focussing on vaccinating health and care staff;
- Home visits have started via a roving service to take the vaccine into people's own homes if they are housebound and cannot attend a vaccination site.

Latest position

In the latest data published today, up to 25 January 2021 in Sussex:

- 202,509 doses of the COVID-19 vaccination have been delivered;
- 81,614 people aged 80 and over have been vaccinated;
- Sussex is 7th highest in the country for the number of people age 80 and over that have received their vaccination and has the third highest population of people aged 80 and over.

For full data: <https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/>

In the week since this data was recorded, progress has continued to be made and we remain on course to have offered the vaccination to the top four priority groups by mid-February, in line with the national target.

Our current position is:

- **Priority 1 - Residents and staff in a care home for older adults** - all older peoples care homes have received first dose vaccinations with the exception of a small remainder of homes who have been deferred due to an outbreak. Vaccinations for these homes have been scheduled.
- **Priority 2 - Frontline Health and social care workers and aged 80+**. Front line NHS staff have received first dose vaccination and we are working to ensure that remaining social care staff vaccinations are completed by February 15th. The majority of people aged 80 and over have been completed, with the remainder expected in the next two weeks.
- **Priority 3 - Aged 75-79**. 69.4% of those aged 75-79 have received the first dose vaccination in East Sussex. The remainder of the cohort is expected to be completed by February 15th.
- **Priority 4 - Aged 70-74 and Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals** – 18.8% of those aged 70-74 have received the first dose vaccination and the remainder of this cohort is expected to be completed by February 15th. We have identified those who are clinically extremely vulnerable and are actively working with our PCNs to ensure this cohort is vaccinated as early as possible.

Data this week shows:

01/02/21	Sussex		East Sussex	
Priority group	First dose	%	First dose	%
Age 70-74	23,272	22.4%	7,263	18.8%
Age 75-79	55,270	71.3%	19,966	69.4%
Age 80+	95,942	85.0%	34,068	83.3%

How services are working

There are a number of ways in which the vaccination is being rolled out to our communities:

- **GP led vaccination services** – these include the GP led or community vaccination services, and pharmacy services in some areas;
- **Large vaccination centres** – each county will have one large vaccination centre which will be able to give the vaccine to large numbers of people as more supplies become available. The Welcome Building in Eastbourne went live this week for anyone in the eligible groups living within 60 miles;
- **Roving service** – the vaccine is being taken into care homes and into people’s own homes if they cannot attend a vaccination site; and
- **Hospital hubs** – larger hospitals across the country have been offering the vaccine to people over 80 attending for a planned appointment. Now that more local vaccination services are up and running, hospital hubs are focused on vaccinating health and care staff.

GP led vaccination services

Key updates:

- All registered patients in East Sussex have access to an active local vaccination service supported by their GP practice;

- Vaccinations took place in **Hailsham** this weekend for patients at all three of the GP practices focused on those aged 70 and over. More than 4000 vaccinations were completed.
- A local vaccination service in **Etchingham** is now live; it is a partnership between Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust and the GP practices in the primary care network.
- The service at Hampden Park in **Eastbourne** has moved to the Sovereign Centre, which provides more space and the ability to increase the number of vaccinations offered.
- Patients in **Seaford** were vaccinated at clinics at both the Seaford Health Centre on Dane Road and the Old School Surgery on Church Street last weekend.
- Patients at Heathfield Surgery in the **Wealden** District will be receiving the COVID-19 vaccination at their surgery this week. The practice is contacting patients aged 75 and over and making appointments as deliveries of the vaccine are confirmed.
- Two pharmacies are now live across East Sussex providing a vaccination service accessible via the national booking system – Ore and Ticehurst.

The local vaccination services for East Sussex are currently:

Eastbourne

The Beacon Shopping Centre, for patients at:

- Victoria Medical Centre

Sovereign Centre, for patients at:

- Arlington Road Surgery, Grove Road Surgery, Park Practice, Seaside Medical Centre, and The Lighthouse Medical Practice

Princes Park Health Centre, for patients at:

- Harbour Medical Practice, Sovereign Practice, Stone Cross Surgery in Pevensey, and Downlands Medical Centre and Manor Park Surgery, both in Polegate

Hastings

Kings Church, for patients at:

- Beaconsfield Road Surgery, Carisbrooke Surgery, Churchwood Medical Practice, Harold Road Surgery, Hastings Old Town Surgery, High Glades Medical Centre, Priory Road Surgery, Sedlescombe House, South Saxon House Surgery, The Station Practice, and Warrior Square Surgery

Laycocks Pharmacy, Ore

Lewes district

For Lewes: River Lodge Surgery, for patients at:

- Foundry Healthcare Lewes

For Seaford: Hampden Park Health Centre in Eastbourne, for patients at:

- Old School Surgery and Seaford Medical Practice

For the Havens: Brighton Racecourse, for patients at:

- Chapel Street Surgery and Quayside Medical Practice in Newhaven, and Havens Health in Peacehaven

Rother district

For patients in the district there a vaccination service went live last week at:

For Bexhill: Sidley Medical Practice, for patients at:

- Collington Surgery, Little Common Surgery, Pebham Surgery and Sidley Medical Practice

Etchingham Village Hall, for patients at:

- Fairfield Surgery, Ferry Road Health Centre, Martins Oak Surgery, Northiam Surgery, Oldwood Surgery, Rye Medical Centre, and Sedlescombe and Westfield Surgeries

Ticehurst pharmacy

Wealden district

Across the district there are vaccination services available for patients living in and around Crowborough and Uckfield. The services are:

For Crowborough: Saxonbury House Medical Centre, for patients at:

- Ashdown Forest Health Centre, Beacon Surgery, Wadhurst Medical Group, Groombridge and Hartfield Medical Group, Rotherfield Surgery, Saxonbury House Surgery, and Woodhill Surgery

For Uckfield: The Meads Medical Centre, for patients at:

- Bird-in-Eye Surgery, Buxted Medical Centre, Herstmonceux Integrative Health Centre, Heathfield Surgery, Mid Downs Medical Practice, and The Meads Surgery

For Hailsham:

- Bridgeside Surgery, Hailsham Medical Group, Quintins Medical Centre

Large vaccination centres

Residents across East Sussex can now receive their COVID-19 immunisations at a new vaccination centre in Eastbourne.

Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust has opened the appointment only facility in The Welcome Building, Compton Street, Eastbourne this week.

Residents who are eligible for vaccinations and who live within a 60 mile radius of The Welcome Building are being written to directly by the NHS and invited to book an appointment.

This vaccination centre follows the opening of the Brighton Centre last week and is in addition to a further vaccination centre that has opened this week at Crawley Hospital.

The three centres provide further choice for eligible patients to the local GP-led vaccination services that now cover all patients in Sussex and select pharmacy led services that are also available through the national booking system.

Appointments for three vaccination centres are available through the national booking system. People in the eligible groups, who have not had their vaccination and who live within 60 miles of a service location are receiving letters inviting them to book their vaccination.

The letters have caused confusion as they do not explicitly reference the GP led vaccination services that are also delivering the COVID-19 vaccination.

People who have received a letter can either use the national booking system to arrange an appointment at a large-scale vaccination centre or pharmacy, or wait to be contacted by their GP led vaccination service (supported by your GP practice) to arrange an appointment.

Roving service (care homes and those who are housebound)

People aged over 65 years old in care homes and those who look after them were identified as the top priority group for the COVID-19 vaccine by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations, due to their high risk from coronavirus.

Thanks to the dedication and commitment of our vaccination teams from GP-led services and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust, Sussex has met the government target to vaccinate older care home residents by the end of January 2021.

Residents living in all care homes for older people in Sussex have been offered the COVID-19 vaccine. A small remainder of homes in Sussex have had visits deferred for safety reasons, following a risk assessment, during local outbreaks. These homes – as well as any other residents or staff that were unwell or unable to have a vaccine at the vaccination team's initial visit, will be visited as soon as possible.

Frontline health and care staff across Sussex continue to be able to access the vaccine daily at one of our hospital hubs or vaccination centres.

Vaccinations for those who are housebound are also underway carried out by GP practices teams and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust. You will be contacted when an appointment is available and we are on track to have completed everyone who is housebound by mid February.

Hospital hubs

There are now seven hospital hub vaccination services in Sussex focused on the vaccination of health and care staff, including care home staff. Health and care staff will be told by their employer how they can book an appointment at one of the following hubs:

- Conquest Hospital, Hastings
- Eastbourne District General Hospital
- Mill View Hospital, Hove
- Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath
- Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton
- St Richards Hospital, Chichester
- Worthing Hospital

Messages for the public

This is the largest vaccination programme ever undertaken by the NHS and a vital part of our fight against the coronavirus pandemic.

In Sussex we have developed a “When will I get my jab” campaign so that we can address any questions, concerns or would like to know more about the programme.

As part of the campaign, we will be promoting the campaign’s key messages across internal and external communications, including social media and the traditional media.

There is also now a range of digital animations to answer some of the big questions. These are all on the Sussex Commissions YouTube or we could send you the direct links – please feel free to share these on your own channels.

Over the coming weeks we will continue to promote three important messages for the public:

1. The NHS will contact you when it’s your turn. Services are very busy providing care and rolling out the vaccine, so please wait to be contacted.
2. Please act on your invite when it comes.
3. The vaccine is one of our best defences against COVID-19 but for now it is still essential that we do all we can to stop the spread of the virus. Adhering to the current restrictions and remembering hands, face and space will save lives and help the NHS.

More information is on the ICS website -

<https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

Frequently Asked Questions



We know that people want to know more about the vaccination programme and how it will affect them and their loved-ones.

To help us get information out to people and deal with the high volume of enquiries that we are receiving, we are regularly updating our FAQs on the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#), to address common questions and queries. A summary of this this week’s top questions is below.

Top frequently asked questions for East Sussex

I have been sent a letter inviting me to book my vaccination – what do I need to do

We are aware that patients are starting to receive letters from the national vaccination booking system. The letter is labelled only from the NHS and invites you to book your vaccination appointment.

We recognise that these letters are causing confusion and we want to provide a simple summary of how people can receive their vaccination and the purpose of these letters.

In our area, people in the eligible groups are able to receive their vaccination at either a GP led or local vaccination service, a larger vaccination centre such as the Brighton Centre which went live this week, a local pharmacy service, or a roving service which is visiting care homes and those who are housebound.

All of these services are working alongside each other and provide people with choice to decide where they would like to receive their vaccination.

GP led or local vaccination services are contacting patients directly by phone, text or letter to book an appointment. People will also be contacted directly if they are housebound and not able to access a service.

Appointments at the larger vaccination centres and local pharmacy services are available through a national booking system and the letters set out how you can access this – both through a website and a phone line.

The letters are being sent to anyone in the eligible priority groups who live in a 60 mile radius from a vaccination centre or a local pharmacy service. It is important to say that this is not just in Sussex and if you live in proximity to a vaccination centre or pharmacy in Hampshire, Kent or Surrey, you are able to book for these and have your vaccination there.

If you have received a letter, you can either use the national booking system to arrange an appointment at a large vaccination centre or pharmacy, or you can leave the letter and you will continue to be contacted by your GP led or local vaccination service (supported by your GP practice) to arrange an appointment.

What is the difference between the vaccination centre at the Welcome Building in Eastbourne and the GP-led services in East Sussex?

The Welcome Building is a large-scale vaccination centre serving the wider population of Sussex and those living beyond county boundaries. It could deliver up to 3,000 vaccinations a day (subject to the supply of vaccines), enabling the NHS to significantly increase capacity to deliver vaccinations. GP-led vaccination services provide appointments for patients at specific GP practices.

While GPs invite their patients to get vaccinated at their local vaccination service, appointments at the vaccination centres are made through the national booking service.

The NHS national booking service writes to eligible people, living within 60 miles of a vaccination centre, inviting them to book an appointment at the centre online or over the phone. The letter contains all the details people will need to book their appointment.

Anyone receiving a letter from the national booking service can choose whether to book an appointment at the vaccination centre, or wait until they are contacted by their GP for an appointment at their local vaccination service if that would be more convenient.

Both large-scale vaccination centres and GP-led services are focused on the vaccination of the first four priority groups.

How do I get an appointment at the Welcome Building vaccination centre, or any of the other vaccination centres?

The national NHS booking service will be writing to eligible people, living within 60 miles of a vaccination centre, inviting them to book an appointment at the centre online or over the phone. The letter contains all the details people will need to book their appointment.

At present eligible people prioritised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) are:

- people aged 80 and over
- people who live or work in care homes for older adults
- frontline health and social care workers

People cannot book an appointment with their GP led vaccination service through the national booking service – this is being coordinated by the GP led service team and patients will be contacted as soon as an appointment is available.

Why is my local/GP-led vaccination service not open all week?

All our GP-led or local vaccination services are working extremely hard to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible with the vaccines they have available, and we expect all those in the top four priority groups to be vaccinated by mid-February.

The days that these services are open largely depends on the supply of vaccine from the national stocks, so not running the vaccination service everyday isn't unusual at this time.

Most local vaccination services are receiving confirmation of their delivery, then working to invite in people for that set number of vaccines, and then will open for dedicated days to use up their vaccine before it expires (for the Pfizer vaccine this is usually within a three day window).

GP practices are also working really hard at the moment to maintain both general medical services and the vaccination programme, and so will have teams back in their surgeries to ensure that can continue to provide the day to day care needed by their patients.

So if your local vaccination service doesn't appear to be vaccinating one day, they will be back in their GP practices, providing care to patients, making appointments for their next sessions, and getting ready for when the service opens that week.

I am housebound – when and how will I get my vaccination?

We are now starting to vaccinate those in the first four priority groups for the COVID-19 vaccination who are housebound and cannot access vaccination through local vaccination services or the vaccination centre. This is being supported by the GP practices in their primary care networks and in some cases by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust. We expect those who are housebound and in the initial priority groups to hear within the next two weeks about when an appointment will be available for a home visit. Those contacts will be made directly by GP practices.

A full FAQ is available here: <https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/faqs-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

If you have a question about the Sussex COVID-19 vaccination programme, which is not answered in our FAQ document, please do let us know using the dedicated mailbox Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net