

Covid-19 Vaccination Programme Briefing

The Covid-19 Vaccination Programme is now well underway in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and will continue throughout the current national lockdown. We are writing to provide you with an update of the programme as it stands on 6 January 2021.

Vaccination sites

We are working incredibly hard to open up additional vaccination sites over the coming days and weeks to expand the number of vaccination sites and vaccination appointments we have available across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough.

The following sites are live and delivering vaccinations to those aged over 80, care home workers and frontline NHS staff:

- Peterborough City Hospital
- Addenbrooke's Hospital
- Ely South and Ely North Primary Care Networks – with practices in Ely, Soham, Haddenham, Burwell and Littleport
- Wisbech PCN – covering the following practices: Clarkson Surgery, North Brink Practice, Parsons Drive Surgery and Trinity Surgery
- South Peterborough – covering the following practices: Oundle Medical Practice, New Queen Street & Stanground Surgeries, and Yaxley
- Lakeside St Neots – covering the following practices: Cedar House Practice, Dumbelton Medical Practice, St Neots Health Centre and Eaton Socon Health Centre

A number of other locations across the area are due to open next week. We will also be starting to vaccinate the top priority JCVI group - Care Homes residents and staff - in their own Care Homes as of this week.

Vaccination appointments

We have already booked in and vaccinated thousands of people aged over 80, care home workers and frontline NHS staff across our area, but we know that there are many more people still to contact and book in as more slots become available.

If people are registered with a local GP, they will be contacted via email, text, phone or letter when it is their turn to book an appointment.

This may vary slightly between different areas in our region due to how the vaccines are made available and distributed from the central distribution system, but please be assured that local residents who fall into the priority groups (as determined by the JCVI) will be contacted by their nearest vaccine centre as soon as the vaccine is available for them.

If they are not registered with a GP, we would recommend they register with a GP as soon as possible.

We would ask that local people do not contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, unless invited to do so. We will contact them when there are appointments available. This is to help us

ensure that call handlers at vaccination sites across the area can utilise maximum capacity to book appointments for those currently eligible for the vaccination.

Delivery of second dose

National guidance from the UK's Chief Medical Officers now recommends that the second dose for both PfizerBioNTech and OxfordAstraZeneca vaccines can be delivered up to 12 weeks after the first vaccination.

The new medical advice states that the second dose of the vaccine remains effective when given up to 12 weeks after the first dose and should be given towards the end of this 12 week period.

Two doses of the vaccine are still needed to get the best protection from the virus, but significant protection is provided at 22 days after the first dose. The new guidance will therefore help ensure that as many vulnerable people as possible benefit from the protection offered by the first dose of the vaccine as soon as possible.

Please be reassured that there are no safety concerns in the new guidance, and it will not impact on how effective the vaccination is in protecting people from Covid-19 once the course is complete.

Based on this new advice we are in the process of contacting people who originally had their second dose vaccination appointment booked in earlier than is now required. This means we will be working hard to change a large number of appointments. If an appointment is going to be changed, we will contact the patient directly. If a patient does not hear from us, then their appointment will continue as planned.

Given the numbers of people we need to contact and the time it will take, we would ask that local people do not contact the hospitals or GP practices as they are extremely busy as their call may prevent one that is more critical from getting through.

Maintain Hands, Face, Space

It is important, even after people have received their first vaccination, to follow the current hands, face, space and ventilate guidance to reduce the spread of Covid-19.

Further information

Further information about the vaccination programme can be found on our website at <https://www.cambridgeshireandpeterboroughccg.nhs.uk/news-and-events/latest-news/covid-19-national-vaccination-programme/>