

COVID-19 vaccination programme update (7 January 2021)

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Introduction



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- We have had a strong start to our local vaccination programme; all three of our hospitals are now vaccinating people and we continue to rapidly open up GP-led Primary Care Network sites. I'm very proud of what we've achieved in challenging circumstances.
- Local NHS organisations have worked closely with a range of partners and had many offers of support from councils, voluntary sector organisations and private businesses, which I am very grateful for.
- The NHS has begun administering the new Oxford AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine which was approved for use last week. The first vaccinations were delivered to a small number of hospitals for the first few days for surveillance purposes, as is standard practice, but our local GP-led services are now starting to receive the vaccine. This follows on from the approval of the Pfizer vaccine on 2 December 2020, which we have been using locally since 9 December.
- The biggest constraint we face now is the supply of the vaccine and equipment, but with the rollout of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine we will be opening new vaccination sites and significantly increasing the number of people being vaccinated each week.

JCVI priority groups

JCVI advises that the first priorities for the COVID-19 vaccination programme should be the prevention of mortality and the maintenance of the health and social care systems. As the risk of mortality from COVID-19 increases with age, prioritisation is primarily based on age.

Priority groups:

1. residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. all those 75 years of age and over
4. all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. all those 65 years of age and over
6. all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. all those 60 years of age and over
8. all those 55 years of age and over
9. all those 50 years of age and over

Delivery of the programme



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1. Hospital hubs

- JPUH and NNUH went live on 9 December, followed by QEH on 30 December. They have been prioritising vaccinating those aged 80 and over and care home workers, as well as a small number of hospital staff at higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19. They will focus more on staff as vaccine supplies increase and more sites open.

2. Local vaccine services

- Our Primary Care Networks are setting-up sites across Norfolk and Waveney to deliver the vaccine from. They are also developing roving teams to go to care homes and people who are housebound.

3. Large vaccination centres

- These will be large sites, such as leisure centres and community hospitals, set-up for high volumes of people. Cambridgeshire Community Services NHS Trust are the lead provider for our area.

Please note, the PCN sites and large vaccination centres have been months in the planning, involved a wide range of partners, and have been quality controlled and approved by NHSE/I. These sites are coming online as the supply of vaccines and consumables increases, in line with the phased national rollout.

GP-led PCN sites



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PCN sites

- Our first seven PCN sites went live on 14 December across Norfolk and Waveney. In total there are now nine PCN sites live.
- Two more PCN sites are due to go live this week and the remaining ten PCN sites are expected to go live next week, bringing our total to 21 PCN sites.
- Together with the hospital hubs and large scale vaccination sites, we will have good coverage and are doing everything we can to make it easy for people to get the vaccine when it is their turn.
- We have had many offers of venues, which we are grateful for. Having assessed potential sites some of them were not suitable because the Police did not consider them to be secure enough, some were assessed by colleagues in council highways teams and considered not to be safe enough or have the right transport links, and others were ruled out because they were too close to other sites, including the large scale vaccination centres.

GP-led PCN sites



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Here are the PCN sites that are live or going live this week:

Site	Go live date
Fakenham Medical Practice, Fakenham	14 December 2020
St James Medical Practice, King's Lynn	14 December 2020
Lionwood Medical Practice, Norwich	14 December 2020
Falkland Surgery, Bradwell	14 December 2020
Swanton Morley Surgery, Swanton Morley	14 December 2020
Thetford Healthy Living Centre, Thetford	14 December 2020
Kirkley Mill Surgery, Lowestoft	14 December 2020
Cringleford Surgery, Cringleford	17 December 2020
St John's Surgery, Terrington St John	22 December 2020
Park Surgery, Great Yarmouth	7 January 2021
Bowthorpe Health Centre	8 January 2021

During the week commencing 11 January we expect our remaining ten PCN sites to go live: five in North Norfolk, one in West Norfolk, one covering Swaffham and Downham Market, one in Waveney, one in Norwich and one in South Norfolk.

Large vaccination sites



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- We are planning to open 13 large scale vaccination centres across Norfolk and Waveney. Ten have already been approved by NHSE/I and three are awaiting approval.
- We expect the first large vaccination site to open in Norwich during the week commencing 18 January and are awaiting final confirmation. We expect the other sites will go live from February in a phased approach.
- Appointments will be booked via a national portal. Appointments will be offered to people in phases following the guidance produced by the JCVI on priority groups.
- All district councils in Norfolk and Norfolk County Council have been part of a COVID-19 Large Scale Vaccination Centre Cell, along with representatives of Norfolk Constabulary, the Fire and Rescue Service, NHS Property Services and the acute hospital trusts. Thank you to council colleagues for the swift response to my letter of 5 October about this; it helped significantly with our planning.
- To plan the large vaccination sites in Waveney, CCG colleagues join the equivalent group in Suffolk.

Roving teams and community transport



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Rollout to care homes and house bound patients

- Lowestoft, Thetford and Swanton Morley PCNs participated in a care home Pfizer pilot and vaccinated 75 care home residents between Christmas and New Year.
- We are now starting to vaccinate more care homes residents using roving teams, led by our PCNs. We are refining our planning based on the pilot and work done to date, as well as conducting preparatory work (for example talking with care homes and organising consent), so that we are as ready as we can be as our supplies of vaccines increase.

Community transport

- As well as operating a roving service to go to care homes and housebound patients, in order to make it as easy as possible for people to get vaccinated we are working with community transport providers and others to get people to vaccination sites.
- For example, all of our GP practices have been sent information about the community transport options available to help patients travel to vaccination sites. Many practices have good relationships in place with community transport providers already.

Community pharmacies



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- We have been informed by NHSE/I that provisionally, two community pharmacy sites have been approved to offer COVID-19 vaccinations, these are in Lowestoft and Norwich. We do not know yet when these sites will go live.
- As with the large vaccination sites, eligible patients will be identified via national call/recall system and will book appointments via a national booking system.
- We will provide more information on the role of community pharmacies as we get it.

Collaboration and support from partners

Here are some of the many examples of great collaboration taking place; some of these may seem small issues, but when taken collectively they show the real shared endeavour this vaccination programme is:

- A well-known local retailer and business has given us 30 car parking spaces to support a site in Norwich.
- The County Council suspended some two-hour parking bays outside St James Medical Practice for people getting vaccinated. The bays are managed by volunteer marshals and a church has provided parking too.
- BDC were really supportive of the site at the Thetford Healthy Living Centre, for example working with the leisure centre next to the site to release parking spaces.
- Some district councils have provided free parking, including GYBC and ESDC.
- SNDC have done lots of work to help identify and secure sites, ranging from making calls on behalf of the NHS and negotiating with existing tenants, as well as sourcing of seating from scout halls and traffic cones.
- ESDC arranged for the loan, and transportation to a site, of wipeable chairs for the observation period after someone has been vaccinated, as the ones on site were cloth.
- For the Gorleston site, GYBC have provided equipment like gazebos, had people on site managing traffic and organised off-site parking with a local business for staff, which freed up space in the surgery car park.
- West Norfolk Community Transport have been incredibly helpful getting patients to their appointments.

Progress with the vaccination programme



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- The number of people vaccinated across Norfolk and Waveney is approaching 30,000.
- This includes almost 40% of people aged 80 and over.
- (There are 65,000 people aged 80 and older living in Norfolk and Waveney, and the NHS has given more than 25,000 their first dose of vaccine. This is probably a bit of an understatement because figures are coming in all the time.)
- The prime minister has committed to providing daily updates on the number of people vaccinated and to being more open and transparent about progress with the vaccination programme.
- We do not yet know what level the figures will be broken down to, for example whether these will be daily national figures or if they will be broken down by health and care system or district council area.

Key messages for local people and stakeholders

We would really value your continued support with reinforcing these messages and signposting people to the information available on the CCG website:

Please do not contact your GP practice or hospital to request a COVID-19 vaccine. You will be contacted when it's your turn to be vaccinated.

We have been working with local voluntary and community groups to understand what their questions and concerns are about the vaccination programme. We have taken what they have told us and produced a myth buster, which along with other information about the vaccination programme can be found here:

www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-programme.

We would like to thank everyone who has offered sites for the vaccination programme. The NHS has now identified all sites we need and we are not looking for any additional venues.