

**HWES COVID-19 Vaccination Advisory Drop In's - (Zoom platform)
Monday 22 Feb 2021 from 17:00 to 17:45
Notes and Actions**

Present

Volunteers: Julie Meredith (JM) - East Hoathly, Rosemary Boucherat (RB) - Eastbourne, Linda Pugsley (LP) - Buxted, Chris Marks (CM) - Polegate, Dr Isaac Suleman (IS) MBE - Eastbourne, Janet Springate (JS) - Eastbourne, Bernadette Lee (BL) - Seaford, Tony Moore (TM) -Winchelsea, John Curry (JC) - Bexhill, Marilyn Eveleigh (ME) - Crowborough and Alan Keys (AK) - Uckfield.

Healthwatch East Sussex Staff- Elizabeth Mackie (EM), Volunteer and Community Liaison Manager, John Routledge (JR) Director and Sue Wells (SW), Administrator

Board: Roger Sweetman (RS), and Vanessa Taylor (VT)

Apologies - Geoff Smith (GS) - Bexhill, Simon Kiley (SK) HWES Evidence and Insight Manager and Kate Richmond (KR), HWES Community Engagement Officer

**There is an update to date page on the HW website with information -
<https://healthwatcheastSussex.co.uk/covid-19-faqs/>**

Update on Vaccine roll out

Sussex has now surpassed the half million mark of vaccinations to protect those in the most vulnerable groups. This reflects the huge amount of working taking place across the system to give those who are eligible the vaccination as quickly as possible.

Last week the NHS in Sussex met the national target for all those in the first four priority groups to have been offered the vaccine by 15 February. Official figures of vaccinations given are published nationally on a weekly basis every Thursday and reflect figures up to the previous week.

In the coming days, local vaccination services will also start to contact people who are due for their second dose, to make sure that all those who have had one jab receive their follow up appointment.

People added to the clinically extremely vulnerable list to receive letters from the national booking system

More than 20,000 people in Sussex have been added to the list of people who are clinically extremely vulnerable (also known as the shielded patient list) after a new assessment of the health of local communities.

People in this group will have received a letter advising them that they are now on the clinically extremely vulnerable list, putting them at high priority for a vaccination. In the coming days they will also receive a letter from the national vaccination programme encouraging them book their appointment.

If you receive this letter, you can book your vaccination straight away by visiting www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination or by calling 119 free of charge between 7am and 11pm seven days a week. Alternatively, you can wait to be contacted by your local GP-led vaccination service.

ID Checks - Health and Care Professionals - they all need ID or letter from employer on headed paper. One professional turned up for appointment and was turned away as her booking was made in her maiden name, but her ID was in her married name.

Carers - these are classed as people who are eligible for Carer's Allowance.

Vaccine Sites

The Welcome Building in Eastbourne is only licensed to give the AstraZeneca (Oxford) vaccine and to anyone aged 18 and over. Only open until 16:00.

Rye - It has been confirmed that there will not be a site in Rye, and that both GP's have said the majority of those who are eligible for the vaccine have had it. There is still community transport to the Etchingham site.

Etchingham - now up and running again after a deep clean

Kings Centre - due to having no vaccine not doing on the 22/02

Bexhill - not doing those aged 60 to 69 at all and closed until the 26/02. People are being directed to the Eastbourne sites.

There was concern that not all vaccine sites have confidential areas for passing on medical information. **EM to raise.**

NHS Sussex Health and Care Partnership - Covid-19 Mass Vaccination Health Inequality Cell

This is a new partnership that is made up of statutory partners and HWES that has been set up to look at those who are being missed off the vaccine and what can be done to get them vaccinated. They are looking at reaching those who are below target, who are the BAME, care staff, homeless and those in deprived areas (Hastings and Eastbourne).

Suggested that they look at the West Sussex bus model- <https://www.gponline.com/gps-use-bus-mobile-covid-19-vaccine-clinic-boost-uptake/article/1705924>. **JR to take to the next meeting.**

Home Vaccine - Roving provision is now focusing further on those who are housebound, which is to say anyone medically registered as housebound on the notes held by their GP. Any concerns related to registrations or recording of this status on medical notes should be clarified with GPs. **ALL to let anyone they know not to let anyone they are unsure about into their home, ALWAYS ask for ID, and the NHS will NEVER ask for payment for the vaccine**

Extra payment to GP's for Vaccines - It was asked if it could be found that the £12.65 per vaccine and extra £10 per home visit that GP's are being paid, is being used to buy in extra capacity, or if existing staff are expected to give the vaccine? **EM to see if she can find out**

Concern about burn out/return to work - It was asked what plans are in place once those at vaccine sites return to their usual work? What is being done as some staff are being asked to work long shifts (10 hours) and this is unsustainable. **EM to check**

Adults with Learning Difficulties - It was asked how they are being supported, before, during and after the vaccine. Also if their registered carer can be vaccinated at the same time.

EM to look at good practice

LP to send EM slides she has done for her PPG

EM/JR to take the issue to the NHS Sussex Health and Care Partnership - Covid-19 Mass Vaccination Health Inequality Cell

BREAKING NEWS - 24/02

All adults with a learning disability will be offered the vaccine against coronavirus after new advice from government experts warned they were at greater risk from the virus.

The government's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has issued new advice saying any adult on GP Learning Disability Register should be prioritised for vaccination along with adults with related conditions such as cerebral palsy.

The JCVI had previously said only those with severe learning disabilities and those living in care homes should be prioritised for vaccinations. Disability rights campaigners and charities warned this left vulnerable people at increased risk from the virus.

An analysis of health records by the OpenSAFELY team looked at outcomes from the second wave of the pandemic for patients using various different codes to identify people with a learning disability.

It confirmed a higher risk of death and complications for those registered with a learning disability.

The JCVI has also backed a plan for the NHS and local councils to identify adults living in care homes and residential settings who may need additional help to get the vaccine.

Professor Wei Shen Lim, Covid-19 chair for the JCVI, said: "The JCVI's advice on Covid-19 vaccine prioritisation was developed with the aim of preventing as many deaths as possible. People who are severely affected by learning disabilities are at higher risk of death from Covid-19.

"As the severity of any disability may not be well recorded in GP systems, JCVI supports the NHS operational plan for anyone on the GP Learning Disability Register to be invited now for vaccination as part of priority group six, and to reach out in the community to identify others also severely affected by a learning disability but who may not yet be registered."

People with Down's Syndrome were already included in group four for priority vaccinations due to a higher risk of severe infection and death and have been included on the government's list of people classed as clinically extremely vulnerable and advised to shield. The JCVI has said age is the biggest factor in determining the risk of death from coronavirus.

Health minister Helen Whately said: "I have heard first-hand how tough this pandemic has been for people with learning disabilities and their families. We are determined those more at risk from Covid should be vaccinated as soon as possible.

"Following the JCVI's updated advice and to make this process simpler and faster, we will be inviting everyone for vaccination who is on their GP's learning disability register. This will mean those who are at a higher risk from the virus can get the protection they need."

HW Survey - We have a survey online <https://healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk/covid-19-vaccination-survey/> on people's 'journey' to the vaccine, so what information they got before the vaccine, how the process of booking the appointment was, how the vaccine was given, information given at the vaccine and how they felt after the vaccine. **We are looking at ways that we can get to those that are not online.**

Numbers refusing the vaccine/What is being to ensure that care home staff take up the vaccine?
At the moment the numbers refusing to have the vaccine are unknown, and the reasons why are also unclear. **EM will try and find out when data might be available.** HWES had asked, but in the first instance were told that the data is not currently available.

People living in the same household - It seems that people living in the same household who are eligible are not being 'called' at the same time, **if this is the case, please let the 'system' know when appointment booked** as the system is trying to be as flexible as possible.

What happens if you live temp at an address (ie live in carer/not from UK). **Not sure EM to check**

Webinar - HW Richmond hosted a live drop in webinar that had over 350 people up on the day. **EM to look to do something similar**

COVID 'Passport' - At the moment there is date for as and when a passport might be available. As soon as we hear something will let everyone know.

Future meetings - It was agreed to extend the meetings to the end of March and **EM to seek views on extending the invitation to wider PPG members; as by doing so, it will provide us with greater range of insight/ feedback and strengthen our relationships with PPG members.**

Dates/Times for future meetings and link (will be the same for each meeting)

1st March
8th March
15th March
22nd March
29th March

All from 16:30 to 17:30

<https://zoom.us/j/93703494337?pwd=UldrU2JHYUxzM2EzMHBreVplK3pEdz09>

Meeting ID: 937 0349 4337.

Passcode: 607362