

BNSSG Healthier Together partnership update

Covid-19 Vaccination – key messages from the Clinical Delivery Group

Edition 2: 22 January 2021

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1. Vaccination programme overview

BNSSG now has 19 Primary Care Network (PCN) sites, three hospital sites, two community pharmacies and one largescale site (Ashton Gate Stadium) currently vaccinating. We are delighted that more pharmacy sites will be coming online soon and that some of the large employers (Avon and Wiltshire Partnership Trust, South West Ambulance Service FT for example) have now been given the go ahead to vaccinate their teams from their own estate.

We are confident that care home residents and staff have been reached in all our care homes, apart from one which is waiting for an outbreak to settle. Nationally, we are ahead with both the over 80s and staff vaccinations. Both the Prime Minister and the Health Secretary have noted that within BNSSG the ability for us to work collaboratively has meant that we have exceeded expectations!

Once again, a big thank you for all your help and support in delivering the covid vaccination to our population and staff!

2. Data sharing and progress

This week (21st January 2021), vaccination data was published at Integrated Care System (ICS) level for the first time. This data will be published nationally every Thursday at 2pm. The first collection puts BNSSG 9th in the country in terms of first dose vaccinations as a percentage of total population. We have now delivered first doses to 7.4% of our population.

Our overall vaccination number (as validated nationally) is 79, 743. By mid-February we expect that everyone in JVCI cohorts 1- 4 will have received vaccinations.

We are now looking into gathering system-level data on the number of people declining vaccination, as well as insight into demographics. This will inform our ongoing communications and engagement approaches. Clearly, we need to ensure that the invitation to vaccination remains live for these people. We are also modelling the numbers of vaccines required to give second doses that start from 8th February.

3. Discharge of care home residents from hospital

We are contacting all managers of care provider organisations to provide an update on the discharge of care home residents from hospital and the Covid-19 vaccination.

In line with national guidance, residents being discharged from hospital are **not** required to have received the Covid-19 vaccination in order to be welcomed into a care home. We are working with care homes to ensure these residents will still be offered the vaccine.

In the meantime, we are advising care homes to continue to follow the [Government guidance](#) on admission and care of residents in a care home. It is particularly important to ensure that residents and staff continue to follow guidelines on social distancing and infection control, even after they have received the vaccination.

4. Vaccination cohorts 3 & 4

We continue to prioritise everyone in cohorts 1 and 2 (the over 80s, care home residents and health and care staff), as we have not yet vaccinated everyone in these groups. However, over the course of this week, we have also been introducing appointments for those aged over 70 years and the clinically extremely vulnerable population (cohorts 3 and 4).

We are reminding people not to contact their local practice they will be in touch. There is enough vaccine for everyone who wants one and staff are working round the clock to ensure the safe and effective delivery of this vaccination programme.

5. Upcoming surgery and cancer treatment

Many clinicians have asked about vaccinating patients who have upcoming surgery or cancer treatments. As a system, we are adhering to the JVCI cohort instructions. Some patients who face cancer treatment will inevitably be or become clinically extremely vulnerable and we will ensure that they are contacted.

Please could we ask that clinicians do not instruct patients to contact their GP to expedite vaccination appointments? This is resulting in unhappy patients and frustrated GPs. Furthermore, surgery and cancer treatments should not be delayed pending vaccination. Thank you for your cooperation.

We have passed on your and our concerns and have been informed that these patients are currently being discussed by JVCI. We await their assessment and instruction.

6. Registration and access

The [Enhanced Service Specification](#) states that patients eligible to receive the vaccination in general practice are those patients who are on the GP practice's registered patient list; as well as unregistered patients and care home workers. Also eligible are 'primary medical services workers registered on another primary medical services practice's list of patients, but who have elected to receive the vaccination from the GP practice for convenience and fall under the eligible cohorts'.

This means:

- Patients registered temporarily with a practice - as long as they have some sort of address in the area in England, and if they fall within one of the eligible vaccine cohorts – should be invited for vaccination.
- There are only very limited circumstances when a GP practice could refuse to register someone applying for permanent or temporary registration, and they wouldn't be able to ask (or tell) whether someone was only registering for the sole purpose of getting a vaccine.
- When booking through the National Booking Service, patients can put in a postcode, and appointments close by will be returned - than where they are registered.

7. Pharmacy roll-out

Two pharmacies in BNSSG joined us in the vaccination roll-out on Thursday. Superdrug in Broadmead, Bristol and Locking Pharmacy in Weston-super-Mare are among the first of hundreds of community pharmacies to offer vaccinations.

Pharmacists from the Locking Pharmacy are delivering the vaccination at the Locking Parkland Community Facility 'The Radio Wing.' Two hundred community pharmacies are due to come online across the country over the next fortnight, including five more in BNSSG. Pharmacies within the BNSSG footprint are now represented in our daily Clinical Delivery Group meetings.

8. Staff booking update

We are making great progress with vaccinating frontline staff from our hospitals, community providers and care homes, and last week we contacted the other health and care providers from across BNSSG asking them to identify their patient-facing staff eligible for a vaccine. This means more staff from social care, dentists, opticians, pharmacists, hospice staff, prison staff and many more frontline groups have now been invited to book.

Health and care staff can book appointments at any of the three hospital hubs or Ashton Gate when they receive their letter and the booking information, with all clinics following the same guidelines regarding the timing of the second dose. However, please do not contact your local primary care site to book at appointment. Local GPs are helping with the vaccination of health and care staff but you cannot book directly through them. We

also ask that staff do not book multiple appointments or share the booking link with others as this can cause a delay to other colleagues being vaccinated.

We expect to have vaccinated all frontline, patient-facing health and care staff by mid-February in line with the government guidance, but this means it will still take several weeks to reach every member of staff who wants to be vaccinated. Please continue to bear with us, appointments are being added all the time so please keep checking the booking platforms.

9. Vaccine side effects

We understand there have been questions asked around the possible side effects after the vaccine. We have included further information for you to draw on as clinicians or staff at vaccination centres:

- [What to expect after your Covid-19 vaccination](#)
- [Covid-19 vaccination programme: information for healthcare practitioners](#)
- Patient-facing leaflet: [Information for people who have had their first vaccination](#)

10. Reactions following the first dose

Further information regarding advice for patients who have had a reaction to the first dose of vaccine has been received.

- If the reaction was severe (anaphylactoid or systemic) then NO second dose should be administered.
- If the reaction was local (a rash that was limited to the vaccinated arm and resulting in a wheel of less than 10cm in maximum diameter with no systemic effects such as nausea or fainting) then the second dose may be administered in any setting.
- For any reaction that sits between these 'extremes' – for example a reaction resulting in whole arm rash, generalised body rash, nausea or light-headedness – the second dose should only be given in a setting where resuscitation equipment and skilled personal are available on site – e.g. a Hospital setting. For advice about managing these patients, professionals can contact the South West Clinical Advice and Response Service on the email address: england.swcovid19-cars@nhs.net for a same day response, seven days a week.

11. Patient leaflet on second dose

We understand there are still lots of questions being asked, and different research being quoted, about the guidance on waiting 12 weeks before having the second dose of the vaccine. We have therefore created a patient leaflet detailing the guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Please find the leaflet attached.

12. Health Equity

We are delighted that Carol Slater, Health Equity Lead in Public Health, Bristol City Council, has agreed to chair and champion the equality and diversity strand of our vaccination programme.

Carol has been a member of the Clinical Delivery Group for vaccination from the outset. With her help, together with colleagues in North Somerset and South Gloucestershire, and working alongside our community groups, we will be looking at ways to ensure culturally competent approaches to both delivery and communications.

Our first online community event for BNSSG takes place next week (January 26th), in partnership with the Bristol Race Equality Steering Group. The event is designed to dispel common myths around vaccination and answer questions from the public. Speakers include Rejeka Lazarus from UHBW, who has been closely involved with the vaccine trials; and Dr Neil Kerfoot, primary care lead for the programme.

You can register for the event here, and we encourage you to promote the event within your networks: [COVID-19 Vaccine – Dispelling the Myths and Misinformation Registration, Tue 26 Jan 2021 at 19:00 | Eventbrite](#)

13. Ashton Gate feedback

We've had lots of really positive feedback from people who have been vaccinated at Ashton Gate Stadium, highlighting how organised and efficient the service is. The staff are providing a happy and friendly atmosphere and are delivering amazing care, with a patient reporting "extremely well organised, very friendly, fast, wonderful treatment", another explained: "you're all amazing, so quick, friendly and efficient. Proud to be your colleague."

One patient was so impressed by the service, they decided they want to get involved: "just had a Covid vaccine at Ashton Gate – really impressed by that place – could not quite believe how easy and efficient it was. Let me know if I can volunteer in my spare time to work there." We are extremely grateful to all the staff and volunteers working across the system who continue to provide amazing care to the people of BNSSG under immense pressure.

Keeping in touch

The vaccination programme is a complex one and moving at pace – as such, we want to ensure you receive regular and relevant updates from the CDG and the wider programme team.

Please feel free to share any feedback or communication needs with the BNSSG CCG comms team: bnssg.communications@nhs.net