



BNSSG Healthier Together partnership update

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

Edition 4: 12 February 2021

- Vaccination programme overview – message from Dr Tim Whittlestone
- Latest data
- Staff vaccinations
- Additional pharmacy sites
- National booking link
- Reaching seldom heard groups

1. Vaccination programme overview

Message from Dr Tim Whittlestone, Clinical Lead for the NHS vaccination programme in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG):

I am delighted that BNSSG has helped to contribute to the South West being the region in the UK with the highest percentage rollout of vaccine. To date, official figures show that we have achieved 23% of the population vaccinated, all of our eligible care homes and the vast majority of our citizens aged over 70. This is a huge achievement in just over seven weeks.

The last two weeks have seen us reaching out to more and more health and social care staff who make up cohort 2 of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidance. Our internal audit shows a fantastic take up by hospital staff with over 80% of frontline staff vaccinated; in the social care and independent sectors this is around 60-70% and we are urging colleagues from these settings to book their appointment as soon as possible.

We approach the 15 February government target with confidence knowing that BNSSG will have offered vaccinations to the majority of the JCVI Cohorts 1-4 but now is not the time to pause or slow down our efforts. We are moving into cohorts 5 and 6 with an anticipation of vaccinating around 60,000 more individuals in the latter half of February.

Our teams are now beginning to see the delivery schedules for second dose vaccinations. We are confident these can be rolled to everyone who has a second dose appointment.

As the roll out continues we are able to better understand the variance in take up rates for vaccinations across groups and we have a really energetic team of people



looking at these issues. Our communications teams continue to do a great job targeting cohorts and our mobile vaccination programme is taking shape to 'lean in' to pockets of the community to ensure an equitable roll-out.

We'd also like to take this opportunity to say a huge thank you to all of the staff and volunteers involved in the roll out of the programme. Everyone is doing an absolutely fantastic job at vaccinating our population. It is the hard work, creativity and 'can-do' nature of all of our partners, stakeholders, staff and volunteers that results in this being such a rewarding campaign.

Thank you for your continued support.

2. Latest data

This week's vaccination data (11 February), which is published at Integrated Care System (ICS) level, shows that across BNSSG we have delivered 181,000 first doses to people in the top four priority groups with 95% of people over the age of 80 now vaccinated. We are on track to have given first vaccinations to everyone in cohorts 1- 4 by 15 February and are now looking at moving down into cohorts 5 and 6.

3. Staff vaccinations

From 11 February, initially for a period of two weeks, all eligible frontline care workers can access their first vaccination via the National Booking Service. This provides an additional option for employers and eligible frontline social care workers to access an appointment at a time and place that is convenient for them. The National Booking Service can be accessed via:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirusvaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/> or by calling 119.

4. Additional pharmacy sites

A further two pharmacies in Bristol have joined the vaccination roll-out. Kellaway Pharmacy in Westbury Park and Boots Pharmacy at Cribbs Causeways opened vaccination clinics on 4 February. This brings the total number of pharmacies in BNSSG offering the vaccine to seven.

5. National call for over 70s and clinically extremely vulnerable to contact NHS for the vaccine

To reinforce the national call for the over 70s and those who are clinically extremely vulnerable to contact the NHS directly if they haven't yet had their COVID-19 vaccine, we have issued a local [press release](#). Members of the vaccination programme team, Dr Neil Kerfoot and Dr Tim Whittlestone have also taken part in BBC and Heart radio interviews to help push the message.



6. Reaching seldom heard groups

We have been working closely with partners and have organised a range of events to help build trust among our seldom heard groups. This week we hosted an online event aimed to communicate how the vaccine is being made more accessible for all communities, including older less mobile people, disabled people, people with learning disabilities and people with mental health problems, which was attended by more than 130 people.

Sirona care & health also launched a podcast, which focused on the key concerns, questions and misconceptions of Covid-19 vaccinations, especially from those in BAME communities. The podcast can be accessed via [Sirona's website](#).

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