

BNSSG Healthier Together partnership update

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

Edition 3: 29 January 2021

1. Vaccination programme overview – message from Dr Tim Whittlestone
2. Latest data
3. Unused vaccine
4. Green book guidance
5. Roving model
6. Vaccinating frontline staff
7. Additional pharmacy sites
8. Update on BAME webinars

1. Vaccination programme overview

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

We are now seven weeks into the rollout of our BNSSG Covid-19 vaccination programme. It's been a rollercoaster and I continue to be inspired every day by the drive and determination of our colleagues across the health and social care sector to ensure we continue to move this programme at pace.

Locally, we are now providing vaccinations to all the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) prioritisation cohorts 1-4 in our 19 primary care network (PCN) locations, two hospital hubs, five pharmacy sites and Ashton Gate. We have ramped up the delivery at Ashton Gate and now have three pods vaccinating 12 hours a day. Alongside this we are developing our roving model to ensure that absolutely everyone in our community who wants to be vaccinated is able to access an appointment (more on this below).

We are one of the first areas to ensure all our care home residents have received their first dose, these efforts have been recognised nationally and locally by MPs – praising the tremendous efforts of our staff with more than 80% of over 80s now complete. And GPs are vaccinating those registered as house bound as and making excellent progress. Our priority now is to ensure that all frontline staff get their vaccination. We have been working closely with more than 1,000 employers to co-ordinate efforts locally.

There has been much media debate this week about second doses. In BNSSG we remain committed to administering second doses by the 12th week after the first dose as mandated by National Policy.

Thank you all for your continued support.

2. Latest data

This week's vaccination data (28 January), which is published at Integrated Care System (ICS) level, shows that locally we have delivered 115,219 first doses of the vaccine. And have now vaccinated 86% of our over 80s.

We are still on track for everyone in cohorts 1- 4 to have received their first vaccination by mid-February.

3. Unused vaccine

There have been a few queries asked about what we are doing as a system with any unused vaccine. Our aim is to avoid wastage and do our utmost to ensure vaccines do not go unused. We have a system-wide approach to offer any unused vaccine at the end of a clinic to people in priority groups 1 to 4. If we are unable to reach anyone from these groups, we will then move to priority group 5 and then 6. We have a robust system in place for contacting people who fall within these cohorts and our staff are doing an excellent job in utilising our vaccine deliveries.

4. Green book guidance

Green book guidance has not changed and we should continue to avoid giving the flu vaccine within 7 days of the Covid vaccine. Some exceptions are permitted where co-administration is judged to be in the best interest of the patient.

5. Roving model

We are in the process of developing a roving vaccination model to ensure that everyone in the eligible cohort who wants to be vaccinated can access the vaccine in BNSSG. The model will focus on groups and communities who may benefit from a more mobile offer, for example the homeless, traveller communities or those who may be more likely to attend an appointment if it is organised in their local community. Different communities will have different needs and we are working to ensure we really understand these needs. To support this learning we are currently using existing insight and data and are working with the local community and faith leaders whose support will be invaluable in ensuring communities are informed and will help identify areas of high need. Part of our solution will include running 'pop up' clinics in these communities and we will be following JCVI cohort guidance on who will be vaccinated.

The details of the roving model are currently being finalised but as soon as we will share more information including how and when people can access the roving model.

6. Vaccinating frontline or patient/client facing staff

All frontline or patient/client facing members of staff should now have received an invitation from their employer or professional body to book their Covid-19 vaccination. We are working with over 1300 organisations to ensure everyone who is eligible is

invited as part of cohort two. We are asking anyone who hasn't been contacted to speak to their employer or professional body as soon as possible.

Locally we are following the JCVI definition of front line which is:

- Staff working on the vaccination programme
- Staff who have frequent face-to-face contact with patients and who are directly involved in patient care in either secondary or primary care, mental health, urgent and emergency care and community settings
- Those working in independent, voluntary and non-standard healthcare settings such as hospices, and community-based mental health or addiction services
- Laboratory, pathology and mortuary staff
- Those working for a sub-contracted provider of facilities services such as portering or cleaning
- Temporary, locum or 'bank' staff, including those working in the Covid-19 vaccination programme, students, trainees and volunteers who are working with patients
- Frontline health and social care staff directly working with vulnerable people who need care and support irrespective of where they work (for example in hospital, people's own homes, day centres, or supported housing), or who they are employed by (for example local government, NHS, independent or third sector).

Appointments are currently available and are booked via the online appointment booking system, the link for which is in the employer letter.

7. Additional pharmacy sites

Three more pharmacies in BNSSG joined the vaccination roll-out on Thursday bringing the total to five. The new pharmacies locations re:

- Bedminster Pharmacy, South Bristol, delivering from Bedminster Methodist Church
- Billings Pharmacy, Kingswood
- Ellacombe Pharmacy, Longwell Green delivering from Longwell Green Community Centre.

Further details are in our [pharmacies press release](#)

8. Update on BAME webinars

This week nearly 600 people attended webinar events, run by Bristol Race Equality COVID19 Steering Group and South Gloucestershire Race Equality Network, which were designed to help people make more informed decisions about the COVID19 vaccination.

Speakers and panellists included doctors, consultants, scientists, public health and community leaders answering key questions about the vaccines. This included how it has been possible, with significant global resources, to fast track the vaccines development; that the vaccines, which have been rigorously tested, are safe, effective

and will boost immunity against COVID 19; that there is no scientific evidence to suggest the vaccine will work differently on people from ethnic minority backgrounds; that there have been no cases of significant side effects of the vaccine; that to keep others who haven't yet had the vaccine safe, you still need to stick to the rules once you have been vaccinated; that pregnant women are not excluded from having the vaccine, but should discuss their case with a doctor; and that everybody living in the UK is entitled to receive the vaccine free of charge.

The events urged people to consider ensuring information received about the vaccine are genuine and to seek advice from a doctor for particular issues. The decision to have the vaccine or not is down to the individual, but herd immunity and a return to 'normality' will only be achieved with a high uptake of the vaccine. The recording of the Bristol event is available on [YouTube](#).

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