

COVID-19 Response Stakeholder briefing

26 January 2021

COVID-19 Vaccination update: East Sussex

This briefing aims to update you on the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in East Sussex.

Latest position

We have been stepping up the vaccination programme in phases over recent weeks and we have now done over 200,000 vaccines across Sussex. Official figures will be given later this week but we are on course to vaccinate the top four priority groups across Sussex by mid-February, in line with the national target.

We now have arrangements in place for patients at every GP practice across Sussex, we have a large vaccination service going live from next week, and we have added two more hospital hubs to the six we already had in place. This will significantly increase our ability to vaccinate more people quicker in the coming days and weeks.

Due to the relatively large number of people who are over 80 living in Sussex, we recognise it will take us longer than in some other parts of the country to vaccinate this priority group in particular. However, we are on track to vaccinate all care homes for older people by the end of the week, in line with the national target, and we expect to have vaccinated all over 80 year olds by the beginning of February.

We are working extremely hard to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible and we are committed to meeting the target of getting the four priority cohorts vaccinated by 15th February.

Latest news: Large vaccination centre goes live for Sussex

A new vaccination centre has opened in Brighton this week to provide eligible people across Sussex greater opportunity to receive their vaccine.

People who are in the top four priority groups currently eligible to receive their vaccination will be invited to get their vaccine at The Brighton Centre. They will book their appointment through a national booking system and will receive their vaccine by teams from Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust, who are running the service.

The centre gives those who are eligible another option to receive their vaccine, in addition to their local GP-led vaccination services.

While the centre is based in Brighton and Hove, it is available for the wider population across Sussex and beyond.

The national NHS booking service will be writing to eligible people living within 60 miles of the Brighton Centre providing them all the details they need to book an appointment online or over the phone. At present the NHS is ensuring that the over 80s are vaccinated before extending invitations to the next priority age groups.

As more supplies of vaccine become available, large-scale vaccination centres are starting to open across the country, capable of quickly vaccinating large numbers of people.

It is also important to note that there will be similar vaccination centres opening in Hampshire, Surrey and Kent, and anyone living in 60 mile radius of these will have the option to choose to go to one of these centres for their vaccination.

Anyone receiving a letter from the national booking service can choose whether to book an appointment at a vaccination centre, or wait until they are contacted by their GP for an appointment at their local vaccination service if that would be more convenient.

Latest news: Care home vaccination on track to meet national target

Older people in care homes are one of the top priority groups for the COVID-19 vaccine due to their high risk from coronavirus.

In line with the national target to have vaccinated all care homes by the end of the month, we have been working tirelessly to vaccinate both residents and staff across Sussex. The initial priority has been care homes for older residents and as of Monday this week, we have vaccinated more than 8,381 residents across a total of 454 care homes for older people (equating to 90 per cent of all of our care homes for older people in Sussex).

Anyone with COVID-19 is unable to receive the vaccine while they are recovering. Some care homes are currently experiencing positive cases of COVID-19 amongst their residents and in these cases the home or those residents who are unwell have not been able to have their vaccination at this point. The vaccination teams have a clear schedule in place and will be revisiting them 28 days following the positive test.

In Sussex, we have one of the highest numbers of nursing and care homes per capita across the country and so this is a significant undertaking but thanks to the dedication and commitment of our vaccination teams from GP practice teams and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust we are making excellent progress towards achieving the government target.

In summary: the COVID-19 vaccination programme in East Sussex

There are a number of ways in which the vaccination is being rolled out to our communities:

- **A GP-led local vaccination service** is where those who are in the first priority groups living in our local community will initially receive their vaccination. This involves groups of local GP practices working together to provide the vaccination to their collective patients at one location. This means that you may not receive the vaccination at your local GP; you may be required to travel to a different location nearby.
- **Hospital hubs** – local hospitals across the country have begun giving the vaccine to people over 80 who are attending for a planned appointment and frontline health and care staff. You will only receive your vaccination in this way if you have an appointment at your hospital.

- **Roving service** – the vaccine will be taken into care homes and into people’s own homes if they cannot attend a vaccination site. This is being stepped up over the coming weeks as more supplies of the vaccines become available.
- **Large vaccination centres** – each county will have at least one large vaccination centre which will be able to give the vaccine to large numbers of people. Brighton Centre went live for Sussex on Monday.

Local vaccination services for East Sussex residents

All patients registered with a GP in East Sussex are now covered by one of the GP-led local vaccination services and will be contacted when it is their turn to receive the vaccine. This means that all registered patients will be able to choose to have an appointment for their vaccination at their allocated local service as appointments are made available.

Key updates:

- Vaccinations took place in **Hailsham** this weekend for patients at all three of the GP practices focused on those aged 80 and over. More clinics are being planned for this week and patients will be contacted as soon as an appointment is available.
- The local vaccination service at **Etchingham** vaccinated hundreds of people from rural Rother last week. The service is a partnership between Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust and the GP practices in the primary care network.
- The service at Hampden Park in **Eastbourne** has moved to the Sovereign Centre, which provides more space and the ability to increase the number of vaccinations offered.
- Patients in **Seaford** are being invited to vaccination clinics both the Seaford Health Centre on Dane Road and the Old School Surgery on Church Street on Saturday 30th January, subject to vaccine delivery.
- From this week Heathfield Surgery in the **Wealden** District will be starting to make appointments for their patients to receive the COVID-19 vaccination at their surgery. They will be contacting patients aged 75 and over and making appointments as deliveries of the vaccine are confirmed.

The GP led vaccination services for East Sussex are currently:

Eastbourne

The Beacon Shopping Centre, for patients at:

- Victoria Medical Centre

Sovereign Centre, for patients at:

- Arlington Road Surgery, Grove Road Surgery, Park Practice, Seaside Medical Centre, and The Lighthouse Medical Practice

Princes Park Health Centre, for patients at:

- Harbour Medical Practice, Sovereign Practice, Stone Cross Surgery in Pevensey, and Downlands Medical Centre and Manor Park Surgery, both in Polegate

Hastings

Kings Church, for patients at:

- Beaconsfield Road Surgery, Carisbrooke Surgery, Churchwood Medical Practice, Harold Road Surgery, Hastings Old Town Surgery, High Glades Medical Centre, Priory Road Surgery, Sedlescombe House, South Saxon House Surgery, The Station Practice, and Warrior Square Surgery

Lewes district

For Lewes: River Lodge Surgery, for patients at:

- Foundry Healthcare Lewes

For Seaford: Hampden Park Health Centre in Eastbourne, for patients at:

- Old School Surgery and Seaford Medical Practice

For the Havens: Brighton Racecourse, for patients at:

- Chapel Street Surgery and Quayside Medical Practice in Newhaven, and Havens Health in Peacehaven

Rother district

For patients in the district there a vaccination service went live last week at:

For Bexhill: Sidley Medical Practice, for patients at:

- Collington Surgery, Little Common Surgery, Pebham Surgery and Sidley Medical Practice

Etchingham Village Hall, for patients at:

- Fairfield Surgery, Ferry Road Health Centre, Martins Oak Surgery, Northiam Surgery, Oldwood Surgery, Rye Medical Centre, and Sedlescombe and Westfield Surgeries

Wealden district

Across the district there are vaccination services available for patients living in and around Crowborough and Uckfield. The services are:

For Crowborough: Saxonbury House Medical Centre, for patients at:

- Ashdown Forest Health Centre, Beacon Surgery, Wadhurst Medical Group, Groombridge and Hartfield Medical Group, Rotherfield Surgery, Saxonbury House Surgery, and Woodhill Surgery

For Uckfield: The Meads Medical Centre, for patients at:

- Bird-in-Eye Surgery, Buxted Medical Centre, Herstmonceux Integrative Health Centre, Heathfield Surgery, Mid Downs Medical Practice, and The Meads Surgery

For Hailsham:

- Bridgeside Surgery, Hailsham Medical Group, Quintins Medical Centre

How the GP led vaccination services are working

Each GP led vaccination service is receiving deliveries of vaccine from the national supply to provide the first dose vaccination to their patients.

The Government guidance on the timing of the second dose has been updated and is now over a 12 week period. All of our vaccination services are following this guidance and inviting their patients back for their second dose in the 12 week period.

Appointments are being offered to patients as soon as vaccine deliveries are confirmed each week.

The regularity of when vaccines are given depend largely on the supply of vaccine. As a result GP led services are not running every day of the week; most are running specific days

in line with the availability of the vaccine. This does not mean that GP led services are permanently closed; as soon as further supplies are received the service will resume vaccinations for its patients.

Getting to a vaccination appointment

We recognise that some people will have to travel further than others to get their vaccination. During the current restrictions, family and friends of elderly patients are permitted to take them to their COVID-19 vaccine appointment under the exemption of 'providing care for the vulnerable'. If this is not possible, then you may be able to access community transport. Other options are also being explored to support residents travelling to their vaccination appointment if they cannot ask a friend or family member for help. Please ask at the time of booking what local arrangements are in place.

Hospital hubs

There are now eight hospital hub vaccination services in Sussex focused on the vaccination of health and care staff, including care home staff. They are at:

- Conquest Hospital, Hastings
- Eastbourne District General Hospital
- Mill View Hospital, Hove
- Princess Royal Hospital, Haywards Heath
- Queen Victoria Hospital, East Grinstead
- Royal Sussex County Hospital, Brighton
- St Richards Hospital, Chichester
- Worthing Hospital

Vaccinations in care homes

A roving service is working to continue the roll out of the vaccine to all care homes across East Sussex.

Vaccines are being delivered through GP practices in their local Primary Care Networks (PCN) and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT).

Anyone with COVID-19 is unable to receive the vaccine while they are recovering. Some care homes are currently experiencing positive cases of COVID-19 amongst their residents and in these cases the home or those residents who are unwell have not been able to have their vaccination at this point. The vaccination teams have a clear schedule in place and will be revisiting them 28 days following the positive test.

Frequently Asked Questions



We are continuing to receive a large number of enquiries in relation to the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

We are regularly updating our FAQs on the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#), to address the questions and queries we are receiving.

A summary of the key questions this week is below.

Key questions for East Sussex

What is the difference between the service at Brighton Centre and the GP led services in East Sussex?

The Brighton Centre is a large vaccination centre, and serves the wider population across Sussex. Anyone within a 60 mile radius of a vaccination centre will be invited to book an appointment via the national booking system.

GP led vaccination services provide appointments for patients at specific GP practices.

Vaccination centres also differ from GP-led services in how appointments are arranged. While GPs invite their patients to get vaccinated at their local vaccination service, appointments at the vaccination centres are made through the national booking service.

At present both are focused on the vaccination of the first four priority groups, with a focus remaining on the over 80s, with the over 70s and clinically extremely vulnerable to follow shortly.

How do I get an appointment at the Brighton Centre, or any of the other vaccination centres?

The national NHS booking service will be writing to eligible people, living within 60 miles of a vaccination centre, inviting them to book an appointment at the centre online or over the phone. The letter contains all the details people will need to book their appointment.

At present eligible people prioritised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) are:

- people aged 80 and over
- people who live or work in care homes for older adults
- frontline health and social care workers

While the over 80s remain the priority, vaccinations can also now be offered to people aged over 70 and the clinically extremely vulnerable, to ensure that all vaccination appointment slots are filled.

Why is my local vaccination service not open all week?

All of our GP led or local vaccination services are working extremely hard to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible with the vaccines they have available, and we expect all those in the top four priority groups to be vaccinated by mid-February.

The days that these services are open largely depends on the supply of vaccine from the national stocks. So not running the vaccination service everyday isn't unusual at this time.

Most local vaccination services are receiving confirmation of their delivery, then working to invite in people for that set number of vaccines, and then will open for dedicated days to use up their vaccine before it expires (for the Pfizer vaccine this is usually within a three day window).

GP practices are also working really hard at the moment to maintain both general medical services and the vaccination programme, and so will have teams back in their surgeries to ensure that can continue to provide the day to day care needed by their patients.

So if your local vaccination service doesn't appear to be vaccinating one day, they will be back in their GP practices, providing care to patients, making appointments for their next sessions, and getting ready for when the service opens that week.

I am housebound when will I get my vaccination?

We are now starting to vaccinate those in the first four priority groups for the COVID-19 vaccination who are housebound and cannot access vaccination through local vaccination services or the vaccination centre. This is being supported by the GP practices in their Primary Care Networks and in some cases by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust. We expect those who are housebound and in the initial priority groups to have heard in the next two weeks about when an appointment will be available for a home visit. Those contacts will be made directly by GP practices.

We remain on track to vaccinate all those in the top four priority cohorts by mid-February.

A full FAQ is available here: <https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/faqs-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

If you have a question about the Sussex COVID-19 vaccination programme, which is not answered in our FAQ document, please do let us know using the dedicated mailbox Sxccg.vaccineenquiries@nhs.net