

COVID-19 Response Stakeholder briefing

19 January 2021

Response to COVID-19 – East Sussex

This briefing aims to update you on the response across our local NHS system in East Sussex to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, in particular the vaccination programme.

Latest position in East Sussex

The number of new cases in East Sussex is going back up with 4,327 new COVID-19 cases reported in the latest available 7-day period as published by GOV.UK on Wednesday 13 January 2021.

COVID-19 Vaccination programme

When will I get my jab?

Vaccines are being rolled out in GP-led vaccination services, hospital hubs and care homes.

Visit our website for the full list.

NHS

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The Sussex vaccination programme has launched a new campaign to provide clear public information to members of the public, patients and our partners.

We recognise the high interest from across our communities in the vaccination programme and we hope that this campaign can help to support our communities as we continue the roll out of this vital protection.

The campaign will include promotion on social media, newspapers, community groups, and with partners.

Update on the 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 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 one large vaccination centre which will be able to give the vaccine to large numbers of people. The large vaccination centres that will service your area will be at the Brighton Centre and this is likely to be up and running at the end of the month.

Over 70s to begin receiving vaccination invitations

This week the government has announced that once vaccination services have vaccinated the majority of people in the first two priority cohorts recommended by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) - residents and staff in care homes for older people, those aged 80 and over and frontline health and care staff, they now have the flexibility to offer vaccinations to the next two cohorts – those aged 70 and over and clinically extremely vulnerable people.

This will keep up the pace of the vaccine roll-out, ensure that no vaccination appointments are unused and prevent wastage.

In Sussex, people aged over 80, care home residents and staff, and health and care workers remain the priority and good progress continues to be made.

Some people have begun receiving a letter from the national booking service inviting them to book appointments at the large-scale vaccination centres. The large-scale vaccination centre for Sussex is readying to open next week, pending delivery of supplies. The over 70s and clinically vulnerable people will be invited to book appointments through the national booking service.

Letters are being sent to people who live within 60 miles of a centre, so some residents in the north of Sussex will have received invitations based on their proximity to the Epsom Racecourse vaccination centre that went live last week. As more large-scale centres and pharmacy-led vaccination services come on-line these will be made available through the national booking service.

Anyone who receives an invitation from the national booking service has the choice of booking an appointment at one of the larger centres or community pharmacy-led sites offered or, if more convenient, waiting to be called by their GP.

Latest position on GP led vaccination services for East Sussex residents

Every GP practice in West Sussex now has arrangements in place for the vaccination of their registered patients. A new site goes live tomorrow, Etchingham in Rural Rother. Further to this vaccinations are due to start in Hailsham at the start of next week.

Eastbourne

Eastbourne has three sites which are live and which have been vaccinating patients over recent weeks.

The Beacon Shopping Centre, for patients at:

- Victoria Medical Centre

Hampden Park Health 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

Hastings has one GP led vaccination service that is providing the vaccination for all eight GP practices in the town and surrounding area.

Kings Church, for patients at:

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

Lewes district

Across the district there are vaccination services available for patients living in and around Lewes, Seaford and The Havens. The services are:

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

We have received enquiries this week about people in Seaford needing to travel to Eastbourne for their vaccinations.

The locations for GP led vaccination services have to go through robust checks and assurance, and meet set national criteria. Hampden Park is an established vaccination service with workforce to support these vaccinations.

We recognise that some people will have to travel further than others to get their vaccination depending on where they live in the local area. If anyone is concerned about how they will travel to get a vaccine during lockdown, it should be noted that, under the national guidance,

it is permissible to receive a lift from someone or there are community transport providers offering this support in terms of transport for medical appointments. You can find information about community and non-emergency transport on the East Sussex County Council website, or call the community hub on 01273 099956.

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

Etchingam Village Hall (goes live 20 January), for patients at:

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

The GP led vaccination service at Etchingam Village Hall will be a partnership between Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust and the GP practices listed above.

Preparations at Etchingam Village Hall are being finalised this week with the aim that the first vaccines will begin to be administered at the start of next week, subject to a confirmed vaccine delivery date.

The GP practice teams have been identifying their patients who are eligible at this stage, starting with the over 80s, and appointments will be booked in over the coming days.

We recognise that at the current time, with one site at Etchingam, some people will have to travel further than others to get their vaccination depending on where they live in the local area.

We would like reassure everyone that there are discussions about further locations in the area and how the vaccination can be transported and offered from GP practices. This is a fast moving programme and over the coming weeks, there may be the option to provide the vaccine from more sites across our communities very soon.

You can find information about community and non-emergency transport on the East Sussex County Council website, or call the community hub on 01273 099956.

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 (over 80s at this time), Mid Downs Medical Practice, and The Meads Surgery

We are pleased to confirm that from Monday 18 January, patients over the age of 80 at Heathfield Surgery will start to receive appointments for their COVID-19 vaccination. We all recognise how important it is to roll out this vital protection across our communities. Vaccinations will be taking place at the GP led vaccination service at The Meads Surgery

and also now at some of our other GP practices. We expect appointments to be booked in the coming days and vaccination clinics to be held next week.

For Hailsham:

- Bridgeside Surgery, Hailsham Medical Group, Quintins Medical centre

GPs from the town's three surgeries are working in partnership with Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust to roll out the vaccination in Hailsham. Services will be provided from the surgery sites in Hailsham as soon as vaccine supplies are received. Preparations are progressing with the aim that the first vaccines will begin in the next two weeks subject to vaccine delivery.

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 vaccination to their patients.

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

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.

We are working to vaccinate as many people as possible as quickly as possible, but deploying a vaccine at this scale is unprecedented. Timing will be dependent to a large extent on manufacturing timescales and supply.

We would please ask all partners to encourage the public not to call their GP practice to find out more about the vaccination programme and to make an appointment. GP practices are incredibly busy at the moment providing their day to day care for patients and they have seen an increase in calls to their teams to ask about the vaccination programme and when it will be available.

We are working with all GP practices to have clear information on their websites and working with community partners to ensure we can share the latest updates in our communities.

Hospital hubs

Hospital hub vaccination services in Sussex were launched at the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton on 08 December 2020. There are now eight hospital hub vaccination services across Sussex, focused on the vaccination of health and care staff, including care home staff:

- 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

Older people in care homes have been identified as the top priority group for the vaccine by the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations due to their high risk from COVID-19. Care staff are also in the top priority.

More than 240 care settings in Sussex have now been vaccinated (as of 18 January 2021). Many more homes across our patch will be vaccinated this week, and we will update you on numbers again in the next briefing.

Subject to vaccine supply, we intend to vaccinate all care homes with residents over the age of 65 years old, by the 25 January, and all care homes in Sussex by mid-February 2021. We will confirm details to each home individually. This will include the appropriate information sharing and consent forms required, including any additional considerations such as mental capacity and safeguarding.

Vaccines are being delivered through the Sussex GP-led vaccination service, managed by the local Primary Care Networks (PCN). We expect this to cover the majority of the care homes in Sussex, with the remainder being served by Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust (SCFT) vaccination teams.

Healthwatch webinar

Our three Healthwatch organisations in Sussex are working together with Sussex CCGs to support families of residents in care settings during this time.

Sussex Healthwatch is hosting a COVID-19 vaccination roll-out in care homes online webinar for Brighton and Hove and East Sussex on Monday 25 January from 3 – 4 pm.

These events are the first in a series which come as one of the recommendations from a report published last month.

More information

We continue to publish all of the latest information on the vaccine of the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#) including a public FAQ, which you may find useful.

We are responding to an unprecedented number of enquiries regarding the roll out of the COVID-19 vaccine across Sussex. We will respond to everyone, but if you need more information, please do have a look at our frequently asked questions documents in the first instance, which may cover the queries you have.

These may also help you to manage and support queries from families, and proactively talk to them about the vaccine.

- [General vaccine FAQs](#)
- [Care homes FAQs](#)

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