

Sheffield community vaccination update

15 February 2021

What's been happening in Sheffield?

Over 130,000 people in the top four priority groups in Sheffield have now received the first dose of a covid vaccine.

It's great news that people over 70 years old, people who are clinically extremely vulnerable, front line health and social care workers, and older adult care home residents have all been offered the vaccine.

NHS Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and GP practices responded to the historical vaccination programme by working together to establish 15 community vaccination centres.

All of our efforts have gone into protecting those who are most vulnerable to becoming seriously ill from the virus and our frontline health and social care staff, we are so pleased that we have been able to vaccinate so many people in just two months.

If you are over 70, clinically extremely vulnerable or a frontline health and social care worker and yet to have the vaccine yet for whatever reason, it's not too late to come forward. You can now book a vaccination appointment online at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/> or call the free number on 119.

Vaccinating at risk adults aged 16-64 and the over 65s

From this week, people from the next two priority groups will start to be offered the covid jab.

The NHS will contact people in the 65 to 69 age group, and people at risk aged 16 to 64 with an underlying health condition. Adults who are unpaid carers are also included in this group.

GP led primary care networks will focus initially on those with an underlying health condition because of the relationship between general practice and those with long term conditions, and continuity of care.

People aged 65 to 69 will be invited by letter to book an appointment at a large vaccination centre such as Sheffield Arena. If you're aged 65 to 69 and want to wait to be called by your primary care network or have already received the jab you do not need to respond to the invitation.

This is the biggest vaccination programme the NHS has ever undertaken and these are the largest groups to vaccinate so far and it will take time to contact everyone. In the meantime, please don't call your GP to enquire about a vaccine, the NHS will contact you when you're eligible and we have a supply of vaccines.

We need the public's help

GP practice staff are doing an incredible job to deliver what is the largest vaccination programme in our history, at the same time as dealing with their patients, but we need the public to play their

part too. Practices are getting lots of calls from keen members of the public asking when they'll be vaccinated. We ask:

- Unless you are over 70 or on the shielded patient list, please don't contact your GP to seek a vaccine, we will contact you when it is the right time.
- When we do contact you, please attend your booked appointments at exactly the time you're asked to, so that we can avoid queues in this cold weather.
- If you have a question about the vaccine, see the frequently asked questions on our website - [FAQs](#)

Frequently asked questions

GPs and community groups are sharing the most common questions that are being asked. Please find answers to these questions below.

I have a health condition and am offered the flu vaccine each year, does that mean I'll be offered a covid vaccine as part of priority group 6?

Not necessarily. The list of people defined as "at risk" or "clinically vulnerable" is slightly different from the list of people who are eligible for flu vaccine. The JCVI defines clinically vulnerable people as those with:

- Chronic respiratory disease, including chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), cystic fibrosis and severe asthma
- Chronic heart disease (and vascular disease)
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic neurological disease including epilepsy
- Down's syndrome
- Severe and profound learning disability
- Diabetes
- Solid organ, bone marrow and stem cell transplant recipients
- People with specific cancers
- Immunosuppression due to disease or treatment
- Asplenia and splenic dysfunction
- Very obese (BMI of 40 or above)
- Severe mental illness (such as schizophrenia or bipolar disease)

GP practices will be working through their lists of patients and contact them when they are eligible and have supply of the vaccine

I'm an unpaid carer, what should I do?

You don't need to do anything yet. Once the council and NHS have pulled a list of unpaid carers together, all those who are eligible adult carers will be contacted via the national booking system to receive an invitation to book vaccination through at large vaccination centre such as Sheffield Arena.

Adult carers who are known to their GP practices will be offered a vaccination via a primary care network and will be contacted when there's supply. You do not need to contact your GP.

Other info

For the latest info, please visit these websites:

- NHS Sheffield CCG [FAQs](#), [videos](#), [national leaflets](#) and [press releases](#)
- Public Health England vaccine campaign materials <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/covid-19-vaccine/resources/>
- Government website <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme>
- British Islam Medical Association position statement on the vaccine <https://britishima.org/pfizer-biontech-covid19-vaccine/>