

Delivering the NHS Covid-19 vaccination

As we move now into 2021, we continue to make significant progress with our Covid-19 vaccination programme.

Hospital Hubs

Hereford County Hospital has now been confirmed as the next Hospital Hub site in Herefordshire and Worcestershire to be able to administer the vaccination.

Wye Valley NHS Trust, which runs Hereford County Hospital, has now started to deliver the vaccine to those groups who the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) have decided need it most. They will be in touch with those who will be receiving the vaccine first - there is no need for anybody to contact the hospital directly.

This is the second Hospital Hub site across our two counties to begin delivery the vaccination following the approval of the Alexandra Hospital in Redditch last month.

Covid-19 vaccination services

From this week, all of our GP-led Primary Care Networks (PCNs) across Herefordshire and Worcestershire will now have started running Covid-19 vaccine clinics for their eligible patients.

PCNs are groups of general practices working more closely together, meaning that patients may be invited to receive the vaccine from a location that is different to their registered practice but one that will still be nearby to where they live.

To get all areas across Herefordshire and Worcestershire in a position to start delivering the Covid-19 vaccination is a remarkable achievement and marks yet another significant milestone on this journey.

Once again, patients are reminded that the NHS will contact people in priority groups when it is their turn to receive the vaccine and they should not contact their GP practice directly asking for an appointment.



Care home vaccinations

Our PCNs across Herefordshire and Worcestershire have also now started to vaccinate local care home residents and staff, who are being prioritised with people aged 80 and above as part of this first phase of the vaccination programme.

Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine

This week the NHS started the rollout of the new Oxford AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine in some parts of the country.

The first Oxford AstraZeneca vaccinations are being delivered at a small number of hospitals for the first few days for surveillance purposes, as is standard practice, before we expect to receive supplies in Herefordshire and Worcestershire.

The new Oxford vaccine is easier to transport and store than the Pfizer jab, which has to be kept at minus 70 degrees until shortly before it is used, which will make it easier to deliver in settings such as care homes.

Rising covid cases and pressure on services

Unfortunately, we are continuing to see rising numbers in terms of both community prevalence of Covid-19, as well as an increase in the number of Covid-positive in-patients in our hospitals. This is causing significant pressures on our local services so I would urge everyone to help us manage these demands by continuing to follow the [latest Government advice](#).

Simon Trickett
Chief Executive
Herefordshire and Worcestershire CCG and STP

