

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme: Update



FRIDAY 11 DECEMBER 2020

Thank you all who attended our emergency Zoom meeting on Monday 7 December. We apologise for the short notice, but hope those who could attend found it useful.

After the deadline for agreeing to participate in the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Enhanced Service, Sheffield is now well into the planning and site visits for first delivery of the Pfizer / BioNtech vaccine at some sites next week.

We have had a couple of updates from the General Practitioners Committee (GPC) and wanted to draw your attention to a document on vaccine delivery in the community that we are seeking clarification about.

1. The Collaborative Agreement in relation to COVID vaccine delivery: A QC opinion has been sought by the GPC, and Richard Vautrey, Chair of GPC England, has confirmed that this document is to be viewed as a template to support practices working in Primary Care Network (PCN) groupings to agree terms of engagement. It can be amended as seen fit by practices in each PCN grouping to reflect and support their local collaboration. It is an important document to have in place, but equally it should reflect local preferences.
2. Site readiness: It is very important that sites feel ready to accept vaccines on their delivery date. If sites do not feel ready it is important to have discussions with Sheffield Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), in particular Richard Crosby, Head of Practice Support, richard.crosby@nhs.net. The GPC and NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) have agreed that sites should not feel coerced into accepting deliveries if not prepared, as this will only lead to vaccine wastage. The CCG has agreed to work in a supportive manner with host sites.
3. Standard Operating Procedure (SOP): On 10 December NHSE/I published their [SOP](#) for vaccine administration in the community. The GPC is seeking clarity on the suggestion and liability of “Clinical Leads” and “Operational Leads” mentioned in the text (S2.1). We will update you when we have more information.
4. 15 minutes monitoring: This requirement after vaccine administration has been re-introduced by MHRA this week due to reactions to the vaccine. This clearly has implications for throughput at sites, including the Sheffield Teaching Hospitals vaccination site. If practices are unable to fulfil their quotas from the over 80 priority lists, they are able to vaccinate their own staff. Vaccination of Care Home staff is still to be agreed with the Local Authority.
5. Reduced activity within the practice to support the delivery of the vaccine programme: This has been agreed, but practices must still fulfil minimum urgent access on days of vaccine administration.
6. 5% vaccine wastage: Concerns have been flagged up regarding penalties for vaccine wastage. Ed Waller, Director for Primary Care Strategy and NHS Contracts, NHSE/I recently confirmed that there is no automatic penalty in the Enhanced Service for breaching the 5% commitment.

This is going to be a long and complex process, and we wish you all well in successful delivery of the vaccination programme.

DR ALASTAIR BRADLEY
Chair