

Briefing Note

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

7 January 2021

Situation

1. This briefing note updates members on the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme which is now underway following the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) approval of both the Pfizer and Oxford Astra-Zeneca vaccines as being safe and effective and approval for use.
2. Please note the delivery of this very large and complex programme of population level vaccination remains a fast-moving situation and some elements of the programme set out in the briefing will continue to be subject to change at short notice.

Background

3. Health and social care staff in across Scotland began to be vaccinated against COVID-19 after the Pfizer vaccine was approved for use in the UK. This programme started in December 2020 with frontline health and social care staff the initial priorities.
4. During the initial phase of delivery new guidance allowed for the Pfizer vaccine to be transported and the prioritisation shifted to focus on ensuring Care Home residents in Older People's Care Homes and staff could receive the vaccine. Planning shifted to allow this with the available supply of the vaccine. Staff clinics for priority groups have continued alongside the programme in Care Homes.
5. A network of clinics has been set up across Lothian for these and trained vaccinators have been delivering the vaccine across both clinics and Older People's Care Homes
6. The programme is being led by NHS Lothian and delivered locally by the Health and Social Care Partnership working within the 4 nations and JCVI guidance.
7. New guidance has also been issued by the JCVI in relation to the delivery of the 2nd dose of both the Pfizer and Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccines allowing for these to be delivered within a 12 week window. This will allow for more first doses to be delivered to more people providing a greater coverage at population level. All planed 2nd dose clinics will be rearranged for those booked and supply of vaccine for those

clinics diverted to more first doses for frontline staff. People will receive both first and second dose vaccines of the same vaccine.

Actions taken

Priority groups

8. On the 24th of December 4 Nations guidance updated the priority groups as set out in **Appendix 1**. Delivery and the timescale for delivering to these groups will be dependent on supply of the vaccine

The Roll Out

9. Health and social care staff remain eligible to book an appointment at one of the staff clinics. This includes staff working in the public or private sector.
10. Supplies of the Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine have begun to arrive to GP practices for the roll out of vaccine to the over 80s. The vaccination programme for the over 80s will be delivered by GP practices from today, the 7th of January. Practices will be contacting eligible patients on their lists to arrange appointments. **People are advised strongly not to contact their practice – their practice will be in contact with them.** Housebound patients in the priority groups will be vaccinated by our District Nursing Teams as is done in the annual Flu vaccination programme.

Timelines

11. As set out above timeline of delivery to priority groups is dependent on supply of vaccine and the number of vaccinators and clinics. Planning is constantly being undertaken within the Lothian programme to ensure timely delivery to as many eligible staff as possible and communication will be planned calling for staff groups to book for vaccination as and when supplies are available in the numbers required.

Communications

12. A national programme of communication is anticipated which will set out what people can expect in relation to being contacted and the mass vaccination programme.
13. Information leaflets are also being compiled by the Scottish Government and we will share them on Vaccine Hub on the Intranet as soon as they are available.

Updates

14. As soon as more information becomes available, it will be shared via partner organisations Intranet sites as well as updated on the Hub on the Edinburgh Partnership website.

Public Vaccination Programme

15. There has already been a lot of speculation in the media about the roll out of the vaccination. For clarity, the arrangements outlined above for the first phase of vaccinations concern those in the highest priority groups.

16. The second phase will begin from February and it is then and only then that major public sites will be used as vaccination centres.

17. A number of sites are being considered as drive through and/or/ walk-in centres to ensure accessibility for the populations of Edinburgh. Issues such as the ability to handle a high flow of people, potential impact on traffic flow, security concerns and so on are all factors being worked through. Information on these developing plans will be shared when it is possible to do so.

Recommendations / next steps

18. It is recommended that members note the contents of the briefing note and contact chiefofficer-eijb@edinburgh.gov.uk if any further questions.

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Appendices

Appendix 1 – Revised Priority Groups

Appendix 2 – Optimising the COVID-19 vaccination programme for maximum short term impact

Appendix 3 – Update from NHS Lothian on Vaccination programme