

COVID-19 VACCINATION

A reminder that we have created a dedicated webpage on the [Healthwatch Brighton and Hove website](#). Information is being released all the time and we are regularly updating this dedicated page as more information about the roll-out of vaccines is released.

The website explains how the vaccines are currently being rolled-out and includes news and updates. We have included detail of some of the most significant changes announced over the last week below.

In addition:

[Click here](#) to access an Easyread guide to being vaccinated which can be downloaded for free

[Click here](#) to access translated materials about the vaccine

Please visit the Healthwatch website [here](#) for more information.

Healthwatch is working with local NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups to ensure you get the information you need. You can access some answers to Frequently Asked Questions about the vaccine by clicking [here](#).

If you have a specific question, please do get in touch at office@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk

Have you had the COVID vaccine? We would like to hear from you about your experience. Please email office@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk

To help you understand more about the vaccination roll out and what to expect, a series of videos have been produced which are available below:

- How will I get my jab? (animation)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Bh4DLdKD6uw>
- I have received a letter, what do I do? (animation)
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ame-eJ4RUSU>
- How will I be invited? <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wtDEiOK46GM>
- What is a vaccination centre?
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=izprZWWYe9w>

(A) Latest vaccination data published.

NHS England now publishes vaccination data, broken down to a Sussex-wide level, every week.

As a city we remain on course to vaccinate the top four priority groups by mid-February, in line with the national target.

Across Sussex:

- More than 200,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccination have been delivered.
- More than 75% of people aged 80 and over have been vaccinated.
- Sussex is 7th highest in the country for the number of people age 80 and over that have received their vaccination.

Data this week shows:

Priority group	Sussex		Brighton and Hove	
	First dose	%	First dose	%
Age 70-74	9,582	9.2%	627	5.6%
Age 75-79	27,479	35.4%	937	12.0%
Age 80+	85,398	75.4%	7,545	64.0%

The latest published data covers the period up until 24th January and since this date we have accelerated the number of people we have been able to vaccinate across the priority groups and opened the new large-scale vaccination centre at the Brighton Centre. Preliminary data today shows that we have now vaccinated over 210,000 people across Sussex.

Due to the relatively large number of people who are over 80 living in Sussex, we recognise it will take us longer than in some other parts of the country to vaccinate this priority group. However, we are on track to have vaccinated the first four priority cohorts by 15th February.

[See the full latest data on the NHS England website](#)

Our current position is:

Priority 1 - Residents and staff in a care home for older adults - all older peoples' care homes have received first dose vaccinations with the exception of 50 homes that are subject to an outbreak of the virus. Vaccinations for the remaining homes have been scheduled.

Priority 2 - Frontline Health and social care workers and aged 80+. Front line NHS staff have received first dose vaccinations and services are working to ensure that remaining social care staff vaccinations are completed by mid-February. Over 75% of people aged 80+ have now received their first dose vaccination. The majority of people in this group are expected to be vaccinated by the end of January.

Priority 3 - Aged 75-79. Over 35% of those aged 75-79 have received their first dose vaccination. The remainder of people in this group are expected to be vaccinated by mid-February.

Priority 4 - Aged 70-74 and Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals - Over 9% of people aged 70-74 have received their first dose vaccination and the remainder of people in this group are expected to be completed by mid-February. People who are clinically extremely vulnerable have been identified and services are actively working to ensure that people in this group are vaccinated as early as possible.

(B) Largest COVID-19 vaccination centre in Sussex opens at Brighton Centre

On Monday 25th January, a new vaccination centre opened in Brighton to provide eligible people across Sussex greater opportunity to receive their vaccine. The Brighton Centre will offer appointments 12 hours a day, 7 days a week, and as a result could deliver up to 3,000 vaccinations a day (subject to the supply of vaccines).

People who are in the top four priority groups currently eligible to receive their vaccination will be the first to be invited to get their vaccine at The Brighton Centre. They will book their appointment through a national booking system and will receive their vaccine by teams from Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust, who are running the service.

The centre gives all those who are eligible another way to receive their vaccine, in addition to their local GP-led vaccination services. While the centre is based in Brighton and Hove, it is available for the wider population across Sussex and beyond.

The service is by invitation only. Appointments cannot be booked directly with the Brighton Centre or through GPs and residents are asked not to contact the centre, their GPs or Brighton and Hove City Council directly. You will be contacted and if you miss a call (or an appointment) you will remain on the list and be recontacted in due course.

The centre will also be vaccinating eligible health and care workers.

The launch of the vaccination centre is the latest step in the ongoing phased roll-out of the Sussex vaccination programme as we work to vaccinate everyone in the first four priority groups by mid-February.

Read more about [What to expect when you arrive at the Brighton Centre for your appointment](#) including information in [Easy Read](#), and [other formats and languages](#)

How you will be contacted to make an appointment at the Brighton Centre

The national NHS booking service will be writing to eligible people living within 60 miles of the Brighton Centre providing them all the details they need to book an appointment online or over the phone. Similar vaccination centres are opening in Hampshire, Surrey and Kent, and anyone living in 60-mile radius of these will have the option to choose to go to one of these centres for their vaccination.

The letter is labelled only from the NHS and invites you to book your vaccination appointment. These letters provide the opportunity to book an appointment at one of the

larger vaccination centres, such as The Brighton Centre, or a local pharmacy service. You cannot book at your GP-led or local vaccination service in this way.

You can ask someone else to book an appointment at the Brighton Centre for you if you prefer. To book you will need:

- your name and date of birth
- your NHS number, which will be at the top of the letter.

All the services are working alongside each other and provide you with choice of where you receive your vaccination. If you would like to have your vaccination at your GP-led (local) vaccination service, you do not need to do anything, and you will be contacted by the team as soon as an appointment is available.

If you would like to have your vaccination at one of the larger vaccination centres or local pharmacy services, please follow the instructions in the letter and use the national system - either online or phone number to book your appointment.

If you have an appointment with your GP led (local) vaccination service, you do not need to do anything - just attend the appointment as planned.

Watch this simple animation which sets out these options:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ame-eJ4RUSU>

Travelling to the Brighton Centre

For those who need to drive to the Centre, **free parking for 1 hour will be available at Churchill Square Orange Carpark**, next door to The Brighton Centre.

For those requiring assistance with transport, we are aware of the following options:

- **NHS Volunteer Responders** 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week, phone number **0808 196 3646**. (There could be up to 15/20min wait for the call to be answered due to demand).
- **Age UK National are partnering with Uber** and will cover the cost up to £15, for anyone travelling to and from one of the 7 original mass-vaccination sites. You will need to download the Uber app on your smartphone and from the top left menu, select a promo code for the site you are travelling to.
- **Brighton buses**. In partnership with local councils, they are accepting concessionary passes for travel 24-hours a day, until further notice, to help those travelling to vaccination centres. They have also introduced a live journey planning tool so you can see how busy your bus is and you can decide whether to travel or to wait for the next bus instead <https://www.buses.co.uk/how-busy-my-bus>
- **Brighton City Cabs** are offering free taxi travel to those aged 80+ to get to their vaccine appointment at Brighton racecourse. Passengers must live within the

Brighton boundary (Longridge Ave, Saltdean - Portslade). Brighton City Cabs will also cover the return trip. Call 01273 205205 to book.

Wheelchair access at the Brighton Centre

For those people who use or require a wheelchair please be advised that

- there is always a steward outside greeting people.
- the steward will collect a wheelchair if needed (they have lots) and help the person from the taxi and take them inside.
- once inside a volunteer will help them through and then out the other end.

(C) Thousands of residents of care homes now protected

Older people in care homes are one of the top priority groups for the COVID-19 vaccine due to their high risk from coronavirus.

In line with the national target to have vaccinated all care homes by the end of the month, our local services have been working tirelessly to vaccinate both residents and staff across Sussex. The initial priority has been care homes for older residents and as of 25th January more than 8,300 residents across a total of 454 care homes for older people (equating to 90 per cent of all our care homes for older people in Sussex) have been vaccinated.

Anyone with COVID-19 is unable to receive the vaccine while they are recovering. Some care homes are currently experiencing positive cases of COVID-19 amongst their residents and in these cases the home or those residents who are unwell have not been able to have their vaccination at this point. The vaccination teams have a clear schedule in place and will be revisiting them 28 days following the positive test.

In Sussex, we have one of the highest numbers of nursing and care homes per capita across the country and so this is a significant undertaking but thanks to the dedication and commitment of our vaccination teams from GP practice teams and Sussex Community NHS Foundation Trust excellent progress is being made towards achieving the government target.

Watch this video which showcases some of the vaccination visits that have taken place.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUMPbMCHmwig&feature=youtu.be>

(D) Health and care workers on track for jab by mid-February

In Sussex, we are on course to vaccinate the top four priority groups by mid-February, in line with the national target. This includes the 120,000 health, social care, and other care workers across the system.

To date, over 60,000 NHS, social care, and other health care staff have been vaccinated in Sussex. With more sites and vaccine supplies now available, this number will continue to rise rapidly in the coming weeks.

The government's 'Green Book' chapter on COVID-19 (from page 11) identifies the long list of health and care staff that are currently eligible for vaccination. You can see the Green Book by [clicking here](#).

(E) Fresh warning over COVID-19 vaccination scams

The NHS is issuing a fresh warning to residents to be on their guard against fraudulent messages as new scams are being sent to patients.

This week there have been fresh reports that some people are receiving fake fraudulent calls, emails and text messages offering the COVID-19 vaccination.

Fraudsters are sending 'phishing' emails and texts, making cold calls, and directly door stepping people with offers of a COVID-19 vaccine. Often, they claim to be from the NHS and direct victims to an authentic looking website where they are asked for their personal details. In some cases, the victim is told that someone will attend their home to administer the vaccine. The fraudster will typically take money from the victim by charging for the vaccine or by harvesting their personal and financial details which they will use to sell or take money from their bank account. Elderly and vulnerable people who are often isolated, particularly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, are often a target for these scams.

In other cases, people are receiving a notification of their 'vaccination appointment' and are being asked to confirm it by clicking on a link. This looks very similar to the genuine texts being sent by GP practice vaccination teams and the NHS is worried people will be conned by them or will not respond to their genuine invitations.

The NHS has this advice for patients:

- An official NHS text message will include details of your GP practice. It will also include details of the local vaccination service and its location.
- Scam text messages and emails are not including local information such as your GP practice details or where you are invited to attend.
- The COVID-19 vaccination is only available by the NHS and it is free - you will never be asked to pay for it or your bank details.

If you are worried about a text message you have received, please be assured you will remain on your GP practice list for vaccination if you do not respond.

Sussex Police is reminding people that if they receive a call, they believe to be fraudulent, to hang up. If a suspicious email has been received it can be forwarded to report@phishing.gov.uk.

Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.

If an individual believes they are a victim of a fraud, this should be reported to Action Fraud as soon as possible by calling 0300 123 2040 or visiting www.actionfraud.police.uk. This can also be reported to Sussex Police online or by calling 101.

(F) Updated Questions and answers

A full FAQ is available here: <https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/faqs-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

1. *What is the difference between the service at Brighton Centre and the Brighton Racecourse?*

The Brighton Centre is a large vaccination centre and serves the wider population across Sussex. Anyone within a 60-mile radius of a vaccination centre will be invited to book an appointment via the national booking system.

The Brighton Racecourse is a GP-led vaccination service, which provides appointments for patients from Brighton and Hove only at specific GP practices.

Vaccination centres also differ from GP-led services in how appointments are arranged. While GPs invite their patients to get vaccinated at their local vaccination service, appointments at the vaccination centres are made through the national booking service.

At present both services are focused on the vaccination of the first four priority groups, with a focus remaining on the over 80s, with the over 70s and clinically extremely vulnerable to follow shortly.

2. *How do I get an appointment at the Brighton Centre, or any of the other vaccination centres?*

The national NHS booking service will be writing to eligible people, living within 60 miles of a vaccination centre, inviting them to book an appointment at the centre online or over the phone. The letter contains all the details people will need to book their appointment. At present eligible people prioritised by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) are:

- people aged 80 and over.
- people who live or work in care homes for older adults
- frontline health and social care workers

While the over 80s remain the priority, vaccinations can also now be offered to people aged over 70 and the clinically extremely vulnerable, to ensure that all vaccination appointment slots are filled.

3. *Why is my local vaccination service not open all week?*

All our GP-led or local vaccination services are working extremely hard to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible with the vaccines they have available, and we expect all those in the top four priority groups to be vaccinated by mid-February.

The days that these services are open largely depends on the supply of vaccine from the national stocks. So not running the vaccination service every day is not unusual at this time.

Most local vaccination services are receiving confirmation of their delivery, then working to invite in people for that set number of vaccines, and then will open for dedicated days to use up their vaccine before it expires (for the Pfizer vaccine this is usually within a three-day window).

GP practices are also working hard at the moment to maintain both general medical services and the vaccination programme, and so will have teams back in their surgeries to ensure that can continue to provide the day-to-day care needed by their patients.

So, if your local vaccination service does not appear to be vaccinating one day, they will be back in their GP practices, providing care to patients, making appointments for their next sessions, and getting ready for when the service opens that week.

4. *I am housebound when will I get my vaccination?*

People who eligible and are considered housebound across Sussex should be reassured they will receive their vaccination before mid-February.

The NHS is on course to vaccinate the top four priority groups by the middle of next month, in line with the national target. This includes those in the priority groups who are considered housebound. As of 24th January, over 200,000 vaccinations had been given across Sussex, with 75% of all those over the age of 80 being vaccinated.

For those residents who are in care homes and for those considered housebound, there is a 'roving' service, which involves the vaccination being taken into people's place of residence to be vaccinated. This is being done by a combination of either the GP-led vaccination services or Sussex Community Foundation NHS Trust

The roving service has been focused on vaccinating care homes for older people and have successfully covered 90% of care homes across Sussex. The remaining 10% were unable to be vaccinated due to outbreaks of COVID-19 and will be revisited after 28 days, in line with infection control guidance.

National news on the vaccine - new vaccine: Novavax

Novavax has published positive data from the UK phase 3 study of its COVID-19 vaccine candidate, showing it to be 89.3% effective in preventing coronavirus in participants. The UK has secured 60 million doses, with manufacturing set to take place on Teesside.

The study was conducted during the period the new COVID-19 variant was first observed in Kent and began to circulate widely, with today's results showing it was effective against the variant during the phase 3 trial.

The vaccine still needs to be approved for use by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), who will assess whether the vaccine meets robust standards of safety, effectiveness, and quality. Read more about this story here [Novavax publishes positive efficacy data for its COVID-19 vaccine](#)



You can sign up to receive regular bulletins and information from Healthwatch.

Please email office@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk

Share your experiences of health and social care services with us:

office@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk

01273 234040

Follow us!

Facebook

@healthwatchbrightonandhove

Twitter

@HealthwatchBH

Instagram

healthwatchbh

Website:

www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk