

# Covid-19 Vaccination priority groups

The COVID-19 vaccination programme for Derby and Derbyshire is following the priority order which is set out by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). The NHS are leading the vaccination programme, more information is available from [Joined Up Care Derbyshire](#)

## Who is eligible now?

The priority order has been developed by the JCVI based on clinical evidence gathered during the pandemic. This prioritises groups of people in order to minimise loss of life and to ensure health and social care systems can continue to operate safely. Further details about this can be found at [GOV.UK - JCVI advice](#).

The NHS has published a 'Standard Operating Procedure' (SOP) which guides local authorities and NHS partners in how the vaccination programme should be managed. This contains some useful information about which staff are eligible and how the programme will be rolled out; this is available for your information at [NHS.UK - frontline workers](#).

The initial focus of the vaccination programme has been people aged 80 and over, priority NHS staff in direct contact with patients, older people who live in care homes and staff who work in care homes for older people.

The next cohort of people to be prioritised includes some frontline health and social care workers who were not included in the first group This priority group is known as 'Cohort 2' under the JCVI guidance.

Not all frontline social care roles are included; the focus will be on people working closely with clinically extremely vulnerable adults and children, for example those supporting people directly with their personal care. A full definition of what "clinically extremely vulnerable" means can be found [here](#). The conditions which are included in this definition are as follows:

- 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
- Morbid obesity
- Severe mental illness

## **What we are doing in Derby and Derbyshire**

We are working closely with colleagues in the NHS who are managing the vaccination programme in order to identify people who meet the eligibility criteria, this includes organisations in the private, voluntary and independent care sector.

If you are a provider of social care services, we appreciate that you will want to ensure that your staff are vaccinated as soon as possible. You may be aware of different arrangements elsewhere in the country. We can assure you that we are working to get priority groups in Derby and Derbyshire vaccinated as quickly as it is practical to do so. We are working with NHS colleagues to provide vaccination clinic availability in a number of places in Derbyshire in order to make sure this happens.

## **Social care providers: what you should know**

The first group of organisations to be vaccinated (Cohort 1), which included care homes, will have received a notification and other information from the relevant local authority explaining eligibility, and details of how to book vaccinations for residents and staff.

If you fit into any of the categories below, staff who are working with clinically extremely vulnerable people are now also eligible for vaccinations as part of Cohort 2:

- Domiciliary Care/Home Care Agency (including Extra Care Provider)
- Supported Living Provider (Adults)
- Community Opportunities (Day Care) Provider
- Personal Assistants
- Staff working in residential children's homes
- Foster carers and shared lives carers
- Care givers for children who are clinically extremely vulnerable within educational settings

If you are not a paid personal assistant and provide care and support as an informal carer, then unfortunately you are not currently eligible for a vaccination. Vaccination for informal carers will take place as part of [Cohort 6 of the JCVI prioritisation model](#).

It is important that workers continue to take the necessary precautions to protect themselves, colleagues and the individuals who they work with as much as they are able, particularly as the number of reported cases are currently very high.

## **Leadership: preparing for the vaccination programme**

If you are a provider of frontline health and social care you should prepare now for the vaccination programme:

- Check if your organisation or any people within your organisation are eligible for a vaccine by referring to the following document [NHS.UK - frontline workers](#) or by contacting the relevant Covid Vaccination team. Email Derbyshire at [Covid.Vaccinations@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Covid.Vaccinations@derbyshire.gov.uk) or Derby City at [ddccg.voc@nhs.net](mailto:ddccg.voc@nhs.net).
- Draw up a list of your team members and/or employees, their job role, and prioritise those staff in terms of their contact with clinically extremely vulnerable people in line with the JCVI guidance.
- The relevant Covid Vaccination team will make providers aware of the available clinics in their local area and what the arrangements are so that people can be directed to the most appropriate centre.
- Staff will need to have their NHS Number to hand when registering for a vaccination appointment. If people can't find their NHS number more details can be found on the [NHS.UK website](#).

It is crucial to the success of the vaccination roll out to prepare your staff to accept their vaccination appointments when they are offered.

You can promote the vaccination programme in the following ways:

- Speak positively about the benefits of vaccination
- Promote publicity materials
- Answer your colleagues' questions and address their concerns
- Allow staff to have their vaccination during work time, where practical
- Where some of your workers have already accessed the vaccine, and others remain unsure, encourage them to talk to their peers
- If you are eligible to do so, have your own vaccination and demonstrate this to your staff

## Further information

Further information about the vaccine, including its safety and effectiveness and how it provides the best available protection from COVID-19 is available on the following links:

- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine \(NHS.UK\)](#)
- [Why vaccination is safe and important \(NHS.UK\)](#)
- [Watch YouTube video - FAQs about the vaccine within the care sector](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination guide for social care staff, healthcare workers, older adults, what to expect after vaccination and more \(GOV.UK\)](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination easy read resources at GOV.UK](#)
- [Care home and healthcare settings posters at GOV.UK](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff](#)

More information about the vaccination programme is available from [Joined Up Care Derbyshire](#) and if you have any questions you can email for Derbyshire: [Covid.Vaccinations@derbyshire.gov.uk](mailto:Covid.Vaccinations@derbyshire.gov.uk) and for Derby City: [ddccg.voc@nhs.net](mailto:ddccg.voc@nhs.net)