

## **COVID-19 vaccination programme update – 8 February 2021**

### **National update**

Further to today's national COVID-19 press conference, people aged 70 and over who do not yet have their first COVID-19 appointment booked are now being encouraged to proactively contact the NHS to arrange a vaccination.

The aim of encouraging eligible patients to arrange a vaccination proactively is to help ensure that everyone aged 70 and over is offered the vaccine in a timely way.

This call to action replaces any message to people aged 70 and over that they should wait until they receive an invitation either to their GP surgery or a vaccination centre.

We have attached the press release to this email. The key messages to the public are that:

- the easiest way to arrange a vaccination is through the national booking service which can be accessed at [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination)
- anyone unable to book online can call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week
- if a suitable and convenient slot is not available people can also call their GP practice
- GP teams have been asked to contact their clinically extremely vulnerable patients, who have been asked to shield, to ensure they have been offered the vaccine.

### **Local vaccination update**

Across Hertfordshire and west Essex, latest figures released on Thursday 4 February show that a total of 206,291 people in the top priority groups have now received their first vaccination.

When we drill down into those numbers, we can see that 90% of 75-79 year olds and 87% of those aged 80 and over have now had their first dose. Our GP networks, acute hospitals, community trusts, and community pharmacies – supported by district and county council colleagues, the uniformed services and thousands of volunteers – are making significant strides towards protecting our most vulnerable elderly population. In a further expansion of

the vaccination network, four more sites across Hertfordshire opened this week to people eligible to receive their vaccinations who have booked in advance. This includes a site in the new Avanti Meadows primary school in Bishop's Stortford.

The process of vaccinating people in our area who are housebound is underway. GPs and local community trusts are contacting those who are housebound, or the carers who look after them, to arrange for them to be given their vaccinations at home.

### **Care Homes**

All residents and staff within west Essex have been offered COVID-19 vaccinations and the majority have been vaccinated. The vaccination teams are working with the homes where there are still outbreaks, undertaking risk assessments to determine when it is safe to vaccinate the residents.

### **More information**

If you have any questions, please email the [West Essex CCG communications team](#).

For information about the Hertfordshire and West Essex vaccination programme, please visit the [Healthier Future website](#).

For information about the vaccination programme, case studies and COVID self-care information, please visit the [Essex COVID vaccine website](#).