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West Yorkshire Covid-19 vaccination update

Dear colleague

NHS England [published](#) the vaccination figures at an integrated care system level this week, and as you hopefully have seen, West Yorkshire is continuing to perform well.

You will also no doubt be aware of the extensive media coverage there has been about vaccine allocations to our region being reduced from next week, which has understandably caused considerable anxiety for both local people and staff. However, while our allocations for this week will be lower than last week, we are still expecting to receive enough supplies to offer vaccinations to all people in the first four priority cohorts by mid-February and all primary care network (PCN) centres will be receiving a delivery this week. Our understanding is that our total allocation has not been changed but the amount of supplies we receive will vary over the next few weeks. This is due to the need to ensure a fair and equitable spread across the country and to make sure people in the groups at greatest risk are all offered a vaccination as quickly as possible. Deliveries are therefore being targeted to areas where there are more people left to vaccinate in the priority cohorts.

In line with this approach, we are also looking at how we can make sure that people in the top two priority cohorts – care homes, frontline staff and people aged 80 and over - across all areas of West Yorkshire have been offered their first vaccinations, before continuing with other cohorts.

Vaccination services

All 48 of our primary care networks (PCNs) are continuing to provide vaccinations from local centres, as well as to local care homes. We have made excellent progress on vaccinating care homes and are hoping to complete the remaining ones over the next few days.

Three more community pharmacies have started providing vaccinations this week (Superdrug at the Merrion Centre, Leeds and two Pharmacy2U services in the Village Hotel, South Leeds and Morrisons on Dewsbury Road, Wakefield), and we are expecting a further three to open next week in the Kirklees area.



Our first large scale vaccination centre – Navigation Walk, Wakefield - will be opening this week. The plan is for the centres at The John Smith’s Stadium and Jacobs Well to open the week after, followed by the centre at Elland Road on 8 February. These dates have not been announced publicly as will depend on receiving sufficient supplies so they are shared in confidence for your information only.

Health and care workers

Currently, the facility at Elland Road is being used to provide vaccinations to frontline health and care workers. There has been a significant increase in the numbers originally estimated for this group, following further national guidance on eligible professions and work is underway in all areas to identify and contact all those covered in the second priority cohort. We are also looking at ways that we might be able to address the imbalance of staff vaccinations across the region, which has arisen from hospital hubs receiving supplies at vastly different times.

National booking system

We are aware that the invitation letters from the national booking system have unfortunately caused some confusion for people. These are being sent to people aged 75 and over who live within a 45 minute drive of any of the open centres. This means that people are receiving invitations to book at locations that are in different areas to where they normally receive their healthcare and some people are concerned about having to travel outside of their local area.

We are trying to reassure people that they do not have to book an appointment at one of these centres if it is not convenient for them to get there and that they can choose to wait for an invitation from their GP practice or to wait until the West Yorkshire centres open and are added to the national booking system over the next few weeks. We have produced information for practices to share on this matter and will share this with elected member colleagues too, to help you address any queries you may get on this topic.

Thank you for your continued support of the vaccination programme and I will continue to keep you updated on further developments.

With best wishes



Dr Phil Wood, Chief Medical Officer, Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust
SRO, Vaccine Programme, West Yorkshire and Harrogate Health and Care Partnership

