

You can access up-to-date information about the vaccination programme on the Healthwatch [webpage](#) (which is being updated regularly)

Alternatively click this link:

<https://www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk/news/2020-12-17/vaccinations-covid-19>

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions please click [here](#).

### Key messages

We all have an important part to play:

- please do not contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, they will contact you
- when you are contacted, please attend your booked appointments; and
- please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives

For straightforward steps to keep yourself and others safe and get help if you need it, visit [www.keepsussexsafe.uk](http://www.keepsussexsafe.uk)

### SCAM ALERT

We are aware that some people are receiving fraudulent calls and text messages offering the COVID-19 vaccination. In some cases, people are asked to press a number on their keypad or to send a text message to confirm they wish to receive the vaccine. Doing so is likely to result in a charge being applied to their phone bill. In other cases, callers are offering the vaccine for a fee or asking for bank details.

People are warned to be alert to these scams.

The vaccine is only available from the NHS and the NHS will contact you when it is your turn. At present, appointments are only being offered to the public over 80 years old.

#### The NHS will:

NEVER ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text to confirm you want the vaccine.

NEVER ask for payment or for your bank details.

If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft you should report this directly to Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040. Where the victim is vulnerable, report it to Sussex Police online or by calling 101.

## Rollout of a coronavirus (Covid-19) vaccine

Developed by Pfizer/BioNTech, the first vaccine has been [approved](#) for use in the UK by the [Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency](#) (MHRA).

Vaccination across Brighton and Hove began on 8<sup>th</sup> December at the Royal Sussex County Hospital, and from 15<sup>th</sup> at a limited number of GP practise.

## Who will get the vaccine?

Vaccinations are being prioritised, with those most at risk of complications from COVID-19 being offered the vaccine first. The prioritisation of the vaccine follows advice from the [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation](#) (JCVI).

The Government has published more information about how groups will be prioritised [here](#).

The priority list is shown below, with those in groups 1 and 2 currently being given the vaccine:



The above information is available in Easyread format for those with a disability:

- in this [Keep Safe](#) poster which also shows the [priority list](#).
- Mencap has produced an [Easy read guide about the coronavirus vaccine and what we know about it so far](#)

When more vaccine becomes available, the vaccines will be offered to other people at risk as soon as possible. Six other vaccines are in different stages of development, and it is hoped that others may also be approved for use in the near future.

## **How will the Covid-19 vaccine be rolled out in Brighton and Hove?**

The NHS is planning to deliver the vaccination programme in three main ways:

1. Hospital Hubs (this started on 8th December)
2. Local GP-led vaccine services (this started on 15th December)
3. Vaccination Centres - large sites convenient for transport networks (not yet started)

### ***Hospital hubs***

In Sussex, the Royal Sussex County Hospital in Brighton received the first supply of the vaccine on 8th December and has begun to vaccinate those over 80, frontline NHS staff, and care worker staff.

### ***GP-led services***

On 15th December GP-led vaccination services in the community began vaccinating patients. Eight local vaccination services are now live across Sussex. Each vaccination service is being supported by one or several GP practices, with their teams working collectively to vaccinate patients at these sites. Nurses, paramedics, pharmacists, and other NHS staff will work alongside GPs to vaccinate those aged 80 and over, as well as care home workers and residents. More sites will launch over the coming weeks.

In Brighton and Hove the following four GP surgeries are supporting the vaccination programme:

- Preston Park Surgery
- Stanford Medical Centre
- The Haven Practice
- Warmdene Surgery

**Please DO NOT contact your GP surgery.** You will be contacted when it is your turn to receive the vaccine. More information about GP vaccinations is available [here](#).

If you have not yet been approached about having the COVID-19 vaccination, please read the information: [why you are being asked to wait](#).

When it is the right time you will receive an invitation to come forward. For most people this will be a letter, either from their GP or the national NHS. This letter will include all the information you will need to book appointments, including your NHS number.

### More about the roll-out

The NHS started the first stage of the vaccine rollout in Hospital Hubs. This is mainly because the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine needs to be stored at -70 degrees Centigrade, which makes it difficult to use outside of hospital settings.

The vaccination programme will be expanding over the coming weeks and months as more vaccine becomes available. This will include:

- More hospital hubs
- More GP-led local vaccination services
- Establishing larger vaccination centres
- A roving service to take the vaccine into care homes and people's own homes if they cannot attend a vaccination site.

### Further information and resources

Please visit the [Sussex Health and Care Partnership website](#)

For answers to Frequently Asked Questions please click [here](#).

Some further information is available via these links:

[Why do I have to wait for a COVID-19 vaccination flyer?](#)

[COVID-19 vaccination - a guide for older adults](#)

[COVID-19 Health care worker leaflet](#)

[COVID-19 Social care worker leaflet](#)

[A guide to the COVID-19 vaccination - for women of childbearing age, those currently pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding](#)

[What to expect after your COVID-19 vaccination leaflet?](#)

[Leaflet from Pfizer/BioNTech on the vaccine](#)

[Information about the vaccine for people living with HIV](#)

### Would you like to help? Become a Vaccine Champion, Vaccinator, or steward



Do you want to support the roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Sussex?

The NHS needs YOU to help support the roll-out of the biggest ever immunisation programme that Sussex has ever seen.

## Vaccination Champions

The NHS is seeking volunteers to become Vaccination Champions to help the NHS in Sussex raise awareness of the COVID-19 vaccination.

Volunteering from your own home at a time that is most convenient for you, Vaccination Champions are part of an exciting new way of helping the NHS in Sussex communicate about the COVID-19 vaccine and dispel myths on the vaccine - in your volunteer role you might:

- post update-to-date information on the vaccine on social media;
- share information from the NHS on What's App;
- produce videos of local community leaders for circulation,
- share information in local magazines or newsletters; and
- post information on community noticeboards.

The NHS would particularly welcome applications from:

- Ethnically diverse communities, including Gypsies, Roma and Travellers
- Faith groups and communities
- Older people
- People with physical and sensory disabilities
- People living in rural communities
- Carers and parent carers
- People who live in Bognor Regis, Crawley, Eastbourne, Hastings, Hangleton and Knoll, Littlehampton, Moulsecoomb, Newhaven, Peacehaven & Whitehawk.

Vaccination Champions receive expenses and will be offered a £20 Amazon Voucher on completion of training and tasks as agreed.

Vaccination Champions will be asked to attend one 2.5 hour session on either the following dates:

- Wednesday 13th January 2021 at 11 am - 1.30 pm
- Tuesday 19th January 2021 at 5.30 pm - 8 pm
- Monday 25th January 2021 at 5.30 pm - 8 pm

If you would like to find out more, please contact us today using the details below.

Applications to become a Vaccination Champion can be made in written form and by telephone supported by the CCGs' Public Involvement team. Please submit your application by **Monday 4th January 2021**.

For further information, please review the:

- [Vaccination Champions Volunteer Profile](#)
- [Vaccination Champions Application Form](#)

Contact the NHS today and sign up to be involved in something great for your local community and for yourself:

WEBSITE: <https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/get-involved/covid-19-vaccination-champions/>

WRITE TO: NHS West Sussex Clinical Commissioning Group, Wicker House, High Street, Worthing BN11 1DJ

TELEPHONE: 07881 501356

EMAIL: [sxccg.involvement@nhs.net](mailto:sxccg.involvement@nhs.net)

## Why vaccination is safe and important

Three vaccines - Pfizer-BioNTech, Sputnik and Moderna - have reported good data from trials, with some suggesting 94% of over-65s could be protected from COVID-19. A further [Oxford vaccine](#) has also shown to be highly effective. The UK has access to a total of 357 million doses of vaccines from 7 different developers.

The [UK medicines regulator gave approval for first UK COVID-19 vaccine](#), developed by Pfizer/BioNTech, to be rolled out. This has been given approval for use following a thorough review carried out by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). Vaccines are only made available to the public after meeting strict safety and effectiveness criteria.



You can find out more from the NHS about why vaccines are safe and important by clicking [here](#). The website explains how vaccines work, what they contain and the most common side effects, and why they are the most effective way to prevent infectious diseases.

For more detailed information about the approval process for a potential COVID-19 vaccine [click here to read a statement from the government](#).

## What Healthwatch Brighton and Hove is doing?

We have created a dedicated webpage which contains information and advice about the vaccine. We are regularly updating this as more information is published. Please visit the website by clicking [here](#).

We are working with the local NHS and other services as they prepare to roll out the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Brighton and Hove.

This includes helping them to clearly communicate what is happening to local people and making them aware of any questions or issues that arise.

We know that there are lots of questions about both the vaccines and how they will be delivered. We have already shared your questions with those responsible for the roll-out of the vaccine.

Please [tell us](#) send us any questions that you may have, and we will do our best to find the answers for you. This will help NHS staff to focus on delivering the vaccine and protecting local people.

Answers to most frequently asked questions will be shared on our website and social media.

We have already received, and shared, questions from you concerning:

- How, and when will I be notified?
- When will I receive the vaccine?
- I am an unpaid carer, when will I receive the vaccine
- Who do I advise about my frontline role (if I am not working for the NHS)?
- How will NHS bank or agency staff receive the vaccine?
- Are GP's being asked to identify those most at risk as they did with people who needed to shield?

Some of the more clinical questions you have asked us will take a little longer to answer as the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group will need to respond.

Answers to some of the Frequently Asked Questions we have received are now available [here](#).