

Covid-19 vaccination update for North East London – City and Hackney

5 January 2021

Our hospitals, urgent care and other services continue to be under incredible pressure due to **rising coronavirus rates**. We are doing everything we can to manage the situation, and asking everyone to do their bit and follow the new Tier 5 rules, which will help, reduce infections.

- [A second Covid vaccine \(from Oxford University/AstraZeneca\) has now been authorised](#) by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
- We have started to **vaccinate care home residents and staff** in some of our bigger homes.
- Lots of people are eager to get protected, but we are asking people **not to contact the NHS** to get an appointment. When it is the right time for people to receive their vaccination, they will receive an invitation to come forward and this may be via the phone, or through a letter either from their GP or the national booking system. We are currently vaccinating JCVI priority groups 1 and 2 (residents in a care home for older adults and their carers; all those 80 years of age and over; and frontline health and social care workers). We will make announcements in social media and the local media, and update our webpage [COVID-19 Vaccination programme | East London Health & Care Partnership \(eastlondonhcp.nhs.uk\)](#) when we start vaccinating other priority groups (starting with over 75 year olds). At that time if there are some over 80s who have not got a vaccination appointment they should contact their GP.
- In order to **maximise the short-term impact of the vaccination programme**, the [guidance on priority groups](#) issued by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has been updated. This advises that there is high efficacy from the first dose of both Pfizer-BioNTech and AstraZeneca vaccines, and the [UK Chief Medical Officers' have stated](#) that delivery of the first dose to as many eligible individuals as possible should be initially prioritised over delivery of a second vaccine dose.
 - Therefore **we are contacting some people who have had their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine to delay their second dose**. Not everyone will be contacted. It depends on the different situations facing vaccination centres, the stocks of vaccine, the staff available to contact patients and other factors. *(Please note all City and Hackney residents that were vaccinated with their first dose at the Elsdale Centre, will receive their second dose as planned this week at the same location).*
 - The **first vaccine dose** gives limited protection in the first 10 days, and increases to a very good protection by day 21. It continues to provide a high level of protection from severe illness and hospitalisation in the short term. However, to achieve maximum protection the second dose remains important and everyone is urged to attend for both appointments to get the maximum level of protection. [Full details on vaccine effectiveness can be found here.](#)
 - The second dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine may be given between 3 to 12 weeks following the first dose. The second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine may be given between 4 to 12 weeks following the first dose.
 - The second vaccine dose should be with the same vaccine as for the first dose. Switching between vaccines or missing the second dose is not advised.
 - There is no preference for either vaccine as both give very high protection against severe disease.
 - It is vital that everyone follows the **national guidance**. While the vaccine will reduce your chance of becoming seriously ill it does not give 100% protection and we do not yet know whether it will stop you from catching and passing on the virus. National guidance will continue to be reviewed by the Government and updated when appropriate. [Please find the latest guidance here.](#)

Please do not fall for scams. The NHS will never ask you for your bank details.

A range of information including patient information leaflets, guidance and [frequently asked questions](#) about the vaccine is available on [our website](#), and videos explaining the vaccine in Sylheti, Gujarati, Tamil, Urdu and Punjabi are also available to share [here](#). This page is updated regularly.

Public bulletin: Across north east London, we produce a regular [public bulletin](#) to share our resources, help keep local people informed about health and care services; and provide information on how they can stay well and keep safe.

City and Hackney specific update

- 975 vaccines done at Elsdale street hub week of 14th Dec; second batch of 975 for second dose being delivered 5th Jan (patients aged 80+ plus priority healthcare staff who previously received their first dose in Dec). Elsdale will then close as a vaccination location.
- A new purpose built vaccination hub at Bocking Street is going through a mandated readiness assessment – it is expected that this site will be approved by the national team on 7th Jan and for it to receive its first lot of vaccines between 13th and 15th Jan – this will be 975 Pfizer, 400 AZ and another 75 Pfizer for care homes. These vaccines will again be used on those that fall into Cohort 1 and 2 where appropriate (see JCVI guidance above).
- Another purpose built vaccination hub at John Scott Health Centre is also being set up – hoping to start vaccinating week of 18th Jan
- We have also started vaccinating care home residents and staff (if remaining vaccine available):
 - Acorn Lodge completed on 30th Dec
 - Beis Pinchos and Fradel Lodge taking place 6th Jan
 - Homerton will be vaccinating Mary Seacole (date TBC)
 - Planning for remaining homes has started
- Homerton due to receive AZ to start vaccinating staff predominantly but also some patients
- Mass vaccination sites, (including at Westfield, Stratford) in the pipeline (confirmed date TBC but expected late Jan)