



**Inspire
For Health**

@ Redbank Practice

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Dear patient

As planned, the next phase of the COVID-19 vaccination programme begins on Monday 11th January with the first seven sites operating the Vaccination Centre model. The first six community pharmacy sites also go live this week to test the model before further rollout.

Both types of service will be bookable through a national service, which has begun sending letters to people this weekend. They will add extra capacity to the vaccination programme – alongside hospital hubs and GP-led local services - so that the NHS can protect all those who would benefit most as quickly as possible. As the booking service will initially be handling appointments for the first groups of vaccination centres and community pharmacies, it is important that we help manage expectations and the number of people using this service inappropriately so that people who are eligible can book when they receive their letter from the NHS.

Vaccination Centres

On Monday 11 January, the first seven vaccination centres will become operational as the next step in rolling out the COVID-19 vaccinations. Initially, there will be one centre in each region, with more centres opening over the course of the month.

These centres are the important third strand of the NHS Covid-19 vaccination plan, sitting alongside hospital hubs and Local Vaccination Services, both of which will continue to grow in number as the supplies of vaccine available to the NHS continues to grow. Your local centre is

Etihad Tennis Club in Manchester (North West)

These sites were chosen from those ready to vaccinate large numbers of people quickly to give a geographical spread covering as many people as possible.

Initially, people aged 80 and over who live within 30 to 45 minutes of a Vaccination Centre, and who haven't already been vaccinated by their local GP led vaccination services or hospital hub, will be the first people to receive letters to book their appointments. Vaccination Centres will also work directly with local health and care employers to directly book staff into appointments. To ensure that those who are greatest risk get their vaccination first, we are asking the public to help us and wait for the NHS to contact them when it is their turn, and to not come to vaccination centres (or any other service) without an appointment. The Vaccination Centres complement, rather than replace, existing vaccination services, which will continue to receive deliveries and should therefore continue to invite patients who are yet to be vaccinated. It is expected that the network of centres will be able to vaccinate tens of thousands of people per week once operating at full capacity, helping us to achieve

our shared goal of offering vaccines to everyone in the top priority groups by the middle of February, which in turn then means all services can then move on to vaccinating the next priority groups in line with the level of supply.

Over the course of the first few days, centres will gradually build up and test their systems to being able to operate up to 12 hours a day. The testing period is essential to ensure that centres have the right social distancing and COVID secure measures in place to protect our patients and staff. Each vaccination centre will be staffed by clinicians, non-registered vaccinators, administrative staff and a range of volunteers who will help make a visit run as smoothly and safely as possible. The exact number of staff and volunteers will depend on how many 'pods' the centre has. There will be three volunteer roles staffed by St John at vaccination centres: fully trained vaccinators, post vaccination observers and patient advocates. As well as these volunteers, the NHS Volunteer Responders programme, coordinated by the Royal Voluntary Service, will also be providing volunteers to be stewards, who will play a crucial role in helping people through the centre, improving the patient journey.

To ensure that critical patient care is not compromised, there is also a national contract in place with NHS Professionals who have been recruiting and training tens of thousands of vaccinators – including many former and private clinicians - who are available to local systems to complement local recruitment and bolster the local vaccination workforce.

The NHS Covid-19 Vaccination Booking Service

The national NHS Covid-19 Vaccination Booking Service went live in advance of booking letters starting to arrive from Saturday 9 January. The NHS service will send out letters for eligible people to book their vaccine appointment. They can do this in two ways:

- Booking online at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination
- Phoning 119.

How it will work - The NHS will write to eligible people (based on the JCVI cohorts) offering them to book through this service. People will be able to book their appointment in a vaccination centre or community pharmacy when these come online. Letters will initially go to people aged 80 and over who live in reasonable travelling distance of the active locations (currently up to 45 minutes), and who haven't already been vaccinated through other NHS vaccination services. As more locations go live, the number of letters going out to people will significantly increase, expanding to other priority groups. The letter that people will receive also explains that people may have also been contacted by their GP services and if they have booked with them, they should take no further action. Information on which patients have not been vaccinated or booked in is drawn from GP records, so it is important that you keep these as up to date as possible. Ensuring patients can access the service when they need to In line with the process already in place for other vaccination services, the NHS will contact people when it is their turn to book their vaccine. It will not be possible to use the NHS Covid-19 Vaccination Booking Service if you haven't received an invitation letter. It will also not be possible to get a vaccine at a Vaccination Centre or Community Pharmacy without an appointment.