

More sites in Dorset to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations

More GP-led sites will start to vaccinate Dorset's most vulnerable residents against COVID-19.

The new locations, including Wareham Hospital, are part of the phased roll-out of the NHS vaccination programme in Dorset and will add to the existing 15 sites that have started vaccinating people.

GP-led sites have been developed by primary care networks (groups of local GP practices) who have worked closely together to develop detailed plans to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations in their wider community locations.

People who have been identified nationally by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) as the highest priority will be invited first, particularly people over-80.

Please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, we will contact you. When we do contact you, please attend your booked appointments. If you can't make an appointment let us know as soon as possible and we can then offer the slot to someone else. You will be called again.

Dr James Jackson is Senior GP Partner at Bere Regis Surgery and Clinical Director of the Purbeck Primary Care Network, he said "The roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme is one of the biggest projects the NHS has undertaken and it has seen everyone involved put in an extraordinary amount of effort over the past weeks and months.

We will be offering the vaccination here in Purbeck in line with the national guidance and I am encouraging anyone who is invited to take up the offer and get themselves protected, however at the same time I am asking people to be patient – we will contact you and make the appointment when the time is right."

In Dorset, the health and care system is working in partnership to make the vaccine available to the people of Dorset in line with national guidance. This includes delivering it in a number of ways to enable easier access for as many people as possible. The national programme roll-out includes hospital hubs, care homes and GP-led local vaccination services. Across the country, vaccination centres treating large numbers of patients in sporting venues and conference centres will subsequently stand up nationally when further supplies of vaccine become available.

Whilst this is good news, people are reminded to reduce their risk and the possibility of passing it to other people by sticking to the national guidelines
<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-restriction-tiers-what-you-need-to-know>.

Sam Crowe, Director of Public Health for Dorset and Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole Councils, said "We're pleased to see the vaccination programme continuing to expand and being offered from more sites across Dorset. However, we are in the early stages of the vaccine rollout, and the recent announcement of another national lockdown should serve as a reminder to everyone that we are still in a very serious situation.

Whilst the vaccine offers us some hope of a return to a more normal way of life, the rise in case rates across Dorset and BCP Council areas is extremely concerning. We must all stay at home unless absolutely necessary to stop the spread, protect the NHS and save lives."

We know that people are very keen to find out about our developing COVID-19 vaccination programme in Dorset and we will share more updates as information becomes available.

Further information on the vaccine is available via the national [NHS website](#).