

COVID-19 Vaccination Programme: UPDATE

Introduction

The aim of the COVID-19 vaccination programme is to protect those who are most at risk of serious illness or death should they develop COVID-19, and reduce transmission of the infection, thereby contributing to the protection of vulnerable individuals who may have a suboptimal response to their own immunisation.

This paper provides an overview to date of the contributions the Trust has made in supporting the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme role out across Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

Background

The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme commenced in October 2020, initially in a planning phase. The Vaccination Programme focused on the first prioritisation cohorts under the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidance and we commenced vaccinating on 8th December 2020.

The clinical delivery model of the vaccine was initially under the Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine moving to incorporate the AstraZeneca vaccine following approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) on 30th December 2020. This was available via the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), where all system partners across Nottinghamshire collaborated to address the national pandemic.

Each NHS provider across Nottinghamshire agreed a lead role under the LRF, the agreed Trusts' role was to co-ordinate and ensure a competent and available workforce supply to support vaccine delivery.

Vaccine Delivery Model

The initial vaccine delivery model was through dedicated Hospital Hub (HH) locations across December 2020 (Kings Mill Hospital, Queens Medical Centre and then City Hospital).

From January 2021, the vaccine delivery model expanded and vaccines were administered through Local Vaccine Sites (LVS) and Mass Vaccine Sites (MVS), along with a roaming vaccine service providing vaccinations for housebound citizens and those in care/residential home settings.

As the programme has developed General Practices have been introduced and play a key part ensuring all citizens in our community are offered and can access a vaccine.

King's Mill Hospital Hub

A key component of the vaccine delivery across Nottinghamshire has been the King's Mill Hospital Hub, providing and administering vaccines 7 days a week between the hours of 8am and 8pm.

The first vaccine at the hub was administered on the 8th December 2020, during the first week of go live around 250 vaccines were delivered daily. Activity has increased averaging around 750 vaccines daily, with a planned increase in capacity from 22nd February 2021 to account for the 2nd vaccination doses commencing.

From 8th December 2020- 21st February 2021, a total of 38,403 vaccines have been administered, primarily focusing on Health and Care Workers, however ultimately playing a key role in supporting the first four prioritisation cohorts under the JCVI guidance. The HH has supported the vaccination of Clinically Vulnerable Young Adults (16-17 years old), cohort who must receive the Pfizer –BioNTech vaccine due to the licensing regulations.

One of the many highlights of the HH was being selected as part of a national pilot to deliver 24/7 vaccinations. The pilot provided useful feedback on the benefits of operating a vaccine platform across a 24 hour period.

The HH is currently exploring the options available to support the Vaccination Programme Model moving forward.

Workforce Supply

The Trust has led the workforce bureau to engage colleagues to work on the vaccination programme. A dedicated team has been in place since November 2020 as part of the Trusts Temporary Staffing Office under the leadership of the Human Resources Department.

To date, this has resulted in over 4,000 colleagues from the local area of Nottinghamshire and beyond registering an interest to support the vaccine programme.

As at 21st February 2021, 3,098 colleagues are fully on-boarded, registered and trained in accordance with National requirements. This was achieved within an 8 week period.

From the 4th January 2021, a total of 15,541 shifts (circa 90,000 hrs.) have been worked.

The Trust has also supported with CQC registrations, quality assurance, procurement, payroll, finance and pharmacy.

Recommendation

The Trust Board is asked to take assurance from the report and to note the contributions the Trust has made towards the vaccination programme.