



Hastings and Rother Healthcare

Covid 19 Vaccination Programme

There has been a lot of confusion this week for patients regarding the role out of the national vaccine service. Below is a summary of how you can book a vaccine appointment, along with some FAQs:

Where can I get a vaccine?

There are a number of ways in which the vaccination is being rolled out to our communities:

- **A GP-led local vaccination service** is where those who are in the first priority groups living in our local community will initially receive their vaccination. Hastings and St Leonard's' service is being delivered by local practices from the Kings' Centre (opposite the Conquest Hospital).
- **Hospital hubs** – local hospitals across the country have begun giving the vaccine to people over 80 who are attending for a planned appointment and frontline health and care staff. People will only receive their vaccination in this way if they have an appointment at the hospital.
- **Roving service (housebound and care homes)** – the vaccine will be taken into care homes (which we have been doing) and into people's own homes if they cannot attend a vaccination site. This is being stepped up over the coming weeks as more supplies of the vaccines become available. Care home vaccination has commenced and we aim to start vaccinating our housebound patients within the next week or two.
- **Large vaccination centres** – each county will have at least one large vaccination centre which will be able to give the vaccine to large numbers of people. There is one at the Brighton Centre and one in Eastbourne.
- **Pharmacy** – patients in eligible cohorts will be able to book via an on-line NHS booking system. People invited to make an appointment through the new national booking service will be given a choice between a vaccination centre, or a pharmacy service. It will not be possible to use the NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Booking Service if patients have not received an invitation letter.

What should I do if I receive a national letter inviting me to a mass vaccination centre or pharmacy, but I want to have my vaccination locally/via my GP services?

You can either choose to book a vaccine at a national service, or pharmacy. Or simply wait for your GP services to contact you. However, at the moment, patients have to complete their vaccinations with the same provider.



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How will the GP led vaccination service in Hastings contact me?

The Covid-19 vaccination service in Hastings is currently contacting patients to offer them a Covid-19 vaccine in the cohort order directed by the government. The first cohort of patients comprises those aged 80 and above, and healthcare workers. The service will progress through each cohort. If you have a smart phone you will receive a text. If you don't have a smartphone, someone from the vaccination service will telephone you to offer you an appointment as soon as possible.

Can I book my own appointment with the local GP led service?

Patients with smartphones will be sent a text message allowing them to book an appointment themselves. If you have a mobile phone number registered at the practice and a smartphone you will be sent a message containing a link allowing you to book an appointment. The message will look like this:

From: NHSNoReply

Dear X,

You have been invited to book your first COVID-19 vaccination. Please do not book if you have tested positive for Covid-19 in the last 28 days; you will be contacted again.

Please click the link to book your vaccination times: LINK

The Hastings Centre

What happens if I do not have a smart phone and can't, therefore, book an appointment?

If you don't have a smartphone, someone from the vaccination service will telephone you to offer an appointment as soon as possible.

Where is the GP led service located?

The Covid-19 vaccines are being administered at The Hastings Centre, The Ridge, Hastings TN34 2SA. We would like to remind you to go there for your appointment and not the surgery.

What happens if I have tested positive for Covid and have an appointment?

If you have tested positive for Covid-19, you must not attend your appointment; you will be contacted again once services realises that you did not attend.

Can I just turn up without an appointment?

No, patients are kindly asked not to do this.

If I am in a current or previous cohort and have not yet been contacted by my local GP service- what should I do?



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If you are in this category but have not yet been contacted, do not worry, you will be contacted soon. After the over 80s have been offered the vaccine, the over 75s will be next, then the over 70s and so on.

We regularly run searches to identify patients within each cohort who have yet to be vaccinated, and should patients not have a smart phone or chose not to book, the vaccination service will contact these patients to verify whether they should like a vaccine. Those that should like the vaccine will then be given an appointment.

What should I do if I receive a national letter inviting me to a mass vaccination centre but I want to have my vaccination locally?

You will be required to wait patiently until we contact you. When you are contacted by the local service you will receive a text message.

What should I do if I have been vaccinated, but then receive a national letter?

Please don't worry, you can ignore the letter. There has just been a crossover in terms of the letter being sent and you being vaccinated, or a time-lag in terms of your record being updated.

Who decides on who gets the vaccine?

The UK's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advises that the first priorities for the COVID-19 vaccination programme should be the prevention of death from COVID-19 and the protection of health and social care staff and systems. Secondary priorities could include vaccination of those at increased risk of hospitalisation and at increased risk of exposure, and to maintain resilience in essential public services.

When will housebound patients get their vaccination?

We are in the process of developing our housebound vaccination (GP led service) and hope to start this within the next couple of weeks.

Can I receive my second dose at another site?

No, at the moment you must have your second dose at the same vaccination centre where you had your first vaccination.

What should I do if the consultant has asked my GP to ensure I have a covid vaccination?

Consultants should not be asking us to do this and therefore, we are sorry but we are not able to book patients outside of the current priority cohorts. As such, you will have to go back to the hospital consultant for them to manage this request internally, or speak to PALS. However, if you are in the current cohort you will be offered it shortly.



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Further advice, guidance and FAQs can be found here:

<https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/faqs-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>