

## Sussex NHS Commissioners COVID-19 Community Briefing 12 March 2021

This briefing will be produced fortnightly, to bring you the latest information from Sussex Health and Care services about the support available for you during Covid-19.

### Sussex COVID-19 Vaccination Programme

#### ‘Jabometer’

Data published by NHS England shows that 613,333 vaccinations had been delivered across Sussex by Sunday 28 February. The latest figures include a breakdown of vaccinations given by age and ethnicity, and also by local area and constituency.

They show that more than 94% of people aged over 70 had received their first dose by the end of February, along with 84% of people aged 65-69. In addition, 243,020 people aged under 65 had received a first dose. This group comprises those people identified as being particularly vulnerable, health and care workers and carers.

We continue working to ensure that all eligible people across our diverse communities who have not yet received a first dose can access the vaccine. The NHS in Sussex had already met the targets to offer the vaccine to all residents in care homes for older people, everyone over 70 and all eligible health and care workers, and remains on track to offer the vaccine to all those in the first nine priority cohorts by the middle of April. [See the latest data published by NHS England](#)

## **People aged 55 to 59 now eligible for their vaccination**

People aged 55 to 59 are now being invited to book their life-saving Covid jab this week as the NHS vaccination programme continues to gather pace.

People receiving the letters are invited to go online to the national booking service to arrange a jab at a time and location that is convenient for them at one of the vaccination centres or pharmacy led services.

If anyone is not able to go online, they can call 119 free of charge.

[#MyJab](#)

The NHS is vaccinating in line with JCVI guidance which sees people invited to be vaccinated in order of risk, which increases with age. People aged between 50 and 55 are set to be invited shortly.

## **Updates on vaccination for carers**

**Unpaid carers** are eligible for vaccination in 'cohort 6' alongside those of all ages who are at risk due to an underlying health condition. In Sussex, carers' organisations and local authorities are working together with the NHS to ensure that all eligible unpaid carers, including parent carers, can access the vaccine.

Around a third of carers will have already received their vaccination because they were eligible in a previous cohort. All other unpaid carers are being identified and invited in a phased process:

**Carers in receipt of Carer's Allowance:** These carers' details are already known nationally, meaning they book right away at one of the larger vaccination centres or pharmacy-led services through the national booking service. [Book online](#) or by calling 119.

**Carers flagged as a carer on their GP record:** These carers' details have been passed to the national booking service so they can also book right away at one of the larger centres or pharmacy-led services. They can also wait to be contacted for an appointment by their local GP-led vaccination service if that is more convenient. If they are registered with their GP as a carer for a person registered at the same practice who is now eligible because of an underlying health condition, they may be offered appointments together.

**Carers registered with their local authority or a local carer's organisation:** These carers are currently being identified and their details will be passed to the national booking system. They will receive a letter inviting to them to book their appointment in due course.

**Other eligible carers:** An application process for any other eligible carers is being developed nationally and more details will be provided once confirmed.

Carers aged 16-18 will need to please wait to be contacted by their local GP-led service as only the Pfizer vaccine is currently licensed for their age group.

This is a large, complex, phased process and may take several weeks to implement. Carers should not worry if they do not receive

their invitation straight away. The NHS in Sussex is on track to have offered the vaccine to all those in the first nine priority groups by mid-April, in line with the national target. This includes all those over the age of 50 and unpaid adult carers.

Carers who are not registered with a local carers' organisation may wish to do so in order to get information and support when they need it most and to be kept up to date.

> [More information and links to carers' organisations in Sussex](https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/when-will-i-get-my-jab/carers-vaccinations/)  
[<https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/when-will-i-get-my-jab/carers-vaccinations/>]

## **Bake Off star Nadiya backs vaccine campaign**

Great British Bake Off star Nadiya Hussain has joined forces with the NHS to tackle COVID vaccine hesitancy and boost uptake.

Nadiya, winner of the Great British Bake Off in 2015, said: "Education is empowering. By educating ourselves around vaccination it allows us to encourage our family members, loved ones and communities to get the vaccine."

76,106 people – 15% – of Bangladeshi ethnicity have so far received a first dose of the vaccine in England.

Nadiya is sharing her message as part of an international vaccination campaign, backed by the United Nations, aiming to increase vaccine confidence. You can view the video message at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBZdcSDhvY0>

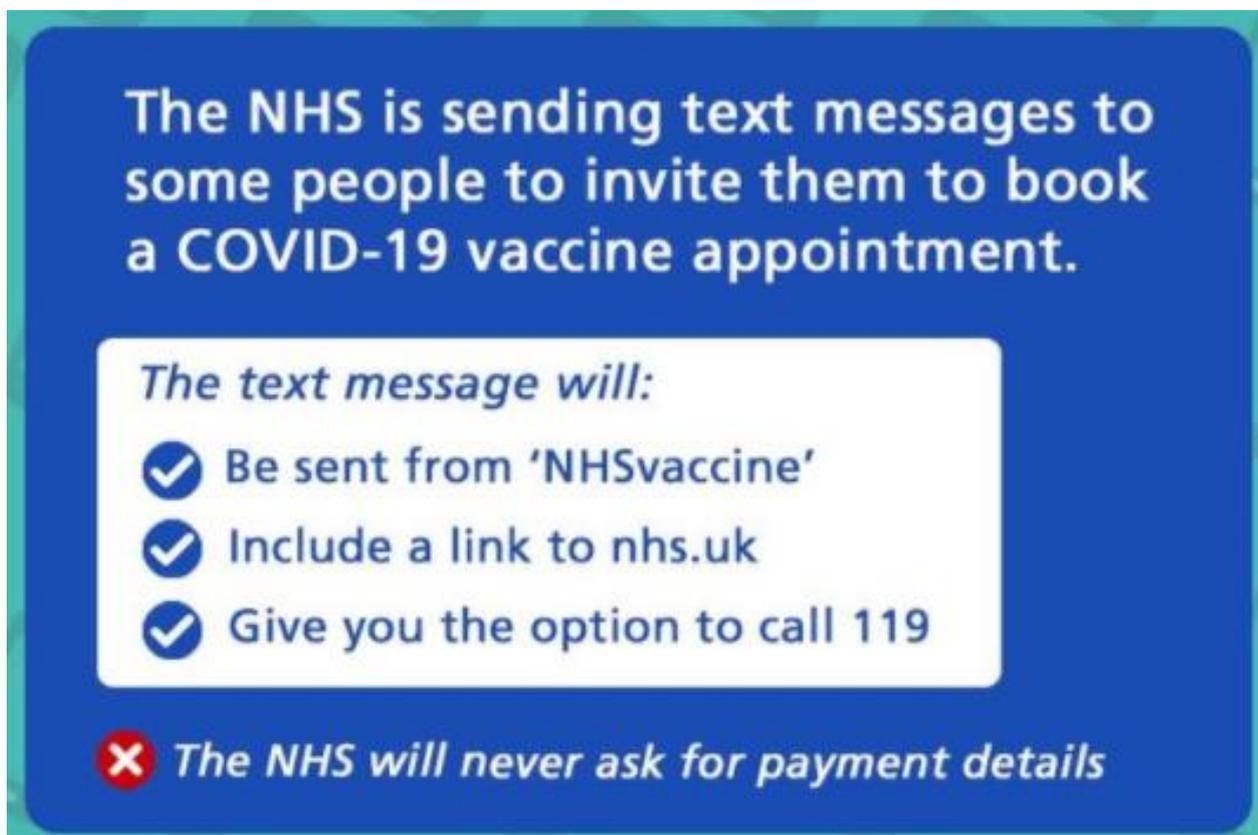
## Text messages being sent by the NHS inviting people to book their jab

The NHS national booking service is now sending text messages to some people to invite them to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

People are receiving invitations to use the national booking service to arrange appointments at one of the vaccination centres or pharmacy led services via the website or by calling 119.

The message from this service will be sent from 'NHSvaccine', include a link to the NHS website, have the option to call 119, and will never ask for payment details.

### [#MyJab](#)



The NHS is sending text messages to some people to invite them to book a COVID-19 vaccine appointment.

*The text message will:*

- ✓ Be sent from 'NHSvaccine'
- ✓ Include a link to nhs.uk
- ✓ Give you the option to call 119

✗ *The NHS will never ask for payment details*

GP led local vaccinations services are also using text messages to invite people for their appointments.

## **COVID-19 Vaccinations: Share your views and experiences with Healthwatch**

As the COVID-19 Vaccination programme is underway, we are keen to hear your views and personal experiences on the vaccine and vaccinations for COVID-19

Please take 10-15 minutes to tell us your views through our surveys. Please click on the links below for the Healthwatch survey in your area:

- [Brighton & Hove Healthwatch survey](#)
- [East Sussex Healthwatch survey](#)
- [West Sussex Healthwatch survey](#)

Healthwatch are the independent national champion for people who use health and social care services. Healthwatch are here to find out what matters to people, and help make sure their views shape the support they need.

### **Easy guide to the current eligible groups**

Please see an [easy guide which sets out which groups are eligible and how you can book your vaccination if you are in these groups.](#)

This is a handy guide and can be shared within your communities, networks and organisations.

## **Fact checker: Why have some people got a second vaccination booked and others are waiting?**

Depending on where you received your vaccination and which vaccine you received will depend whether you had a second vaccination booked at the time or not.

If you have already been vaccinated and don't yet have your second appointment **you will be contacted** to arrange this shortly by the place where you received your first. National guidance is that people must have their second vaccine at the same place they received their first.

While the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine gives a good immunity to the virus, two doses are needed to have the best chance of full protection. Second doses are being scheduled up to twelve weeks after the first.

It is really important that people get both doses to get the greatest benefit from the vaccine.

If you don't already have your date for your second dose, please be patient. Unless you have already booked both doses through the national booking service, you must have your second dose at the same place that you received your first.

They will contact you to arrange your appointment, but **this may not happen until around ten to eleven weeks after your first appointment.**

## Enquiries about COVID-19 vaccinations

For enquiries about COVID-19 vaccinations, please look first at the our [website](#) at

[www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/](http://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/)

If you cannot find the answer you need, you can contact us on:

- Email: [sxccg.vaccineenquires@nhs.net](mailto:sxccg.vaccineenquires@nhs.net)
- Telephone: 0800 433 4545 (Monday to Friday 9am- 4pm)
- d/Deaf people can now contact the number above through [SignLive](#) – look for **Brighton & Hove, East & West Sussex Vaccine Enquiries** in the Community Directory.

(Note that **we cannot book a vaccination appointment for you** – please wait to be contacted.)

## Better Health – Let's Do This

After successfully kick-starting the nation's health at launch in July 2020, the Better Health campaign is returning in January 2021 with positive and motivating messages to support us all to take action to improve our health.

The campaign shows you how taking just a few simple steps can help you to feel better, whether that's looking after your mental health, increasing your physical activity or losing weight.

The [Better Health site](#) has a range of evidence-based tools to help people change their eating habits, get more active and lose weight.

Visit <https://www.nhs.uk/better-health/> to find out more.

## NHS launches Stroke awareness campaign #ActFAST

A stroke spreads like a fire in the brain. You have to think and Act FAST. Check their Face, Arms and Speech. If you see any single one of the signs of stroke in yourself or others it's Time to call 999. The faster you act the better their chances.

The **FAST** acronym has featured in the advertising for a number of years and is a simple test to help people identify stroke symptoms:

- **Face** – has their face fallen on one side? Can they smile?
- **Arms** – can they raise both arms and keep them there?
- **Speech** – is their speech slurred?
- **Time** to call 999 if you see any one of these signs

Other stroke symptoms people should be aware of include:

- Sudden loss of vision or blurred vision in one or both eyes
- Sudden weakness or numbness on one side of the body
- Sudden memory loss or confusion
- Sudden dizziness, unsteadiness or a sudden fall, especially with any of the other symptoms

**Even if you are not sure, Act FAST, make the call, dial 999.**

## Local Support Available

Find out about services that can help with specific issues, like mental health support, and what to do if you can't get food, medicines, or are lonely and isolated, on your council's website:

- [Brighton and Hove Community Hubs](#)

Brighton and Hove Community Support Telephone: 01273 293117

- [East Sussex Community Hubs](#)

- [West Sussex Community Hubs](#)

West Sussex Support Team Telephone: 033 022 27980 (Lines are open 8.00am - 8.00pm)

**NHS Volunteer Responders** are still providing vital support to people vulnerable to COVID-19 and this will continue until at least March 2021. The scheme continues to accept new referrals, and volunteers are ready to provide vital support to those who meet the criteria. You can [contact the NHS Volunteer Responder Service online](#) or call on 0808 196 3646 (8am to 8pm seven days a week).

If you are interested in volunteering as a steward for the COVID-19 vaccination programme, you can also do this through the [NHS Volunteer Responders scheme](#)

## National Updates

The latest position in terms of confirmed cases of COVID-19, broken down into total UK cases and local areas, is [updated daily](#).

**Roadmap Out of Lockdown** – a 4-step plan to ease lockdown in England has been announced by the Government, which sets out how the Government will continue to protect and support citizens across the UK and provide a roadmap out of the current lockdown in England. You can read more about the plans to ease lockdown in the coming months [here](#).

**National Lockdown: Stay at Home** – find out what you can and cannot do during the national lockdown [here](#).

**Getting tested** for Coronavirus - information is available [here](#).

Getting **financial help and staying safe** at work information is available [here](#).

All the [latest national advice and guidance](#) is available on the Gov.uk website. Health and care organisations across Sussex are all working together to protect and support our local communities.

Everyone can do their part to restrict the spread of the virus. Stay at home if you can, keep a distance and protect each other when you have to go out. People are being urged to **Keep Sussex Safe**.

## Healthwatch

You can also raise issues through Healthwatch, which is an independent body responsible for gathering people's views of health and social care services. Contact details are below:

### **Healthwatch Brighton and Hove:**

Telephone: 01273 234 040

Email: [info@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk](mailto:info@healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.healthwatchbrightonandhove.co.uk/contact-us/>

### **Healthwatch East Sussex**

Telephone: 0333 101 4007

Email: [enquiries@healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk](mailto:enquiries@healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk)

Website: <https://healthwatcheastsussex.co.uk/contact/>

### **Healthwatch West Sussex**

Telephone: 0300 012 0122

Email: [helpdesk@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk](mailto:helpdesk@healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk)

Website: <https://www.healthwatchwestsussex.co.uk/contact-us>

## NHS Sussex Commissioners Public Involvement Team Contact Details

If you have any questions, or if you need this brief in an alternative format, please contact the Public Involvement Team:

**Email:** [sxccg.involvement@nhs.net](mailto:sxccg.involvement@nhs.net)

**Telephone:** 01903 708 411

**Post:** FREEPOST RTUZ-ECYG-ERRK

Attn: Public Involvement Team, NHS Brighton & Hove  
Clinical Commissioning Group

Hove Town Hall, Norton Road, Brighton, BN3 4AH



Deaf British Sign Language (BSL) users can contact us between 09:00-17:00 Monday- Friday through the [Video Relay Service \(VRS\) 'SignLive'](#). Simply download the [SignLive app](#), register your details, and search for NHS Brighton and Hove in the Community Directory. If the call goes to answerphone please leave a message, with your name and SignLive ID code and we will call you back as soon as possible.

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Previous versions of the briefing can be accessed via the news section on the CCGs websites:

[NHS Brighton and Hove CCG](#), [NHS East Sussex CCG](#), and [NHS West Sussex CCG](#).

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