**COVID SPECIAL REPORT January 2021**

**Information from Chichester Alliance of Medical Practices (ChAMP) 05.01.21**

We are pleased to advise that, subject to final site approval and the delivery to site of the vaccine itself, the Chichester Alliance of Medical Practices (ChAMP) will commence COVID Vaccination Clinics in the week commencing 11 January 2021, most likely starting midweek.

The first clinics will be held in The Selsey Centre, Manor Rd, Selsey, Chichester, PO20 0SE, which will be used to provide vaccinations to patients from all eight ChAMP Practices (Cathedral Medical Group, Langley House, Lavant Road, Parklands, Selsey, Southbourne Tangmere and Witterings).  We hope to provide vaccinations from a second, more central, site in the next few weeks.  We realise that the Selsey location is not ideal for all patients but there were few options available that could accommodate the complex arrangements for the delivery of these vaccines; at least at this early stage, the ChAMP GP surgeries are not suitable.   The vaccination sites will be staffed by a mixture of local GP Practice staff, hospital staff and members of the public who have volunteered from the local community.

**Full details now on local surgery sites:**

<https://www.langleyhousesurgery.co.uk/covid-vaccination-clinics/>

<https://southbournesurgery.com/covid19-vaccinations/>

[http://www.cathedralmedicalgroup.nhs.uk/news,59829.htm](http://www.cathedralmedicalgroup.nhs.uk/news%2C59829.htm)

<https://www.lavantsurgery.co.uk/covid-vaccinations-updated-5th-january-2021/>

<https://www.parklandssurgery.nhs.uk/news.aspx>

**A central ChAMP NHS Organisation will contact eligible patients directly to book them into the clinics. Please DO NOT contact your GP surgery as they will not be able to book you into this clinic.**

**Information from CDC**

The Government announced a new national lockdown on 4th January, which came into force straightaway, with the new laws reinforcing the restrictions in place by the end of today. This action has been taken by the Government due to a significant rise in infection rates across the country, caused by a new strain of coronavirus which is much more transmissible. The Government is concerned the impact that this is having on our hospitals, which are under more pressure from coronavirus than any time since the start of the pandemic.

We have been told that we must stay indoors other than for limited exceptions – such as essential medical needs, food shopping, exercise and work that cannot be done at home. Schools and colleges have been told that they must move to remote teaching for the majority of students until at least half-term. **The full guidance can be found here**:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-lockdown-stay-at-home>

On a positive note, the Oxford vaccine has now been approved and has started to be rolled out. The Government is aiming to offer one dose of the vaccine to all care home residents and their carers; everyone aged 70 and over; all frontline health and social care workers; and, the clinically extremely vulnerable by mid-February.

St Richard’s Hospital started vaccinating people on 4th January and more vaccination sites will become operational over the coming days. **Larger vaccination centres will also be opened – most likely in February. Our understanding is they are still evaluating sites in the District.**

**We understand that sites in Selsey and Tangmere will start to be used shortly.**

More details on the vaccination programme in Sussex can be found here: <https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

Please note that St Richard’s Hospital is not mentioned in the lists we have provided, but **we can confirm that people have started to be vaccinated at this site**. The website also includes what to expect when you have your vaccination and a detailed list of FAQs, which can be found here:

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

This page also provides contact details if people have a question or want to give feedback - you may find this useful:

 Email: sxccg.contactus@nhs.net

Telephone: 01273 238 725

**From WSCC (not contained in above)**

**COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update**

Work continues at pace to roll out the vaccination across Sussex.

Two more hospital hubs (The Conquest Hospital in Hastings, East Sussex, and Worthing Hospital in West Sussex) are now delivering vaccinations to existing patients of these hospitals aged over 80 years old, as well as health and care staff.

St Richard’s Hospital in Chichester, Eastbourne District General Hospital and the Princess Royal Hospital in Haywards Heath, are planned to start to deliver the vaccine this week.

The GP-led vaccination services also continue to expand, with 15 sites now completing their first round of vaccinations. A further eight sites will join these from this week, subject to final approval. A full list of current sites is available here:

<https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/sussex-covid-19-vaccinationprogramme/covid-19-vaccination-sites/>

Sussex Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and GPs have started  vaccinating residents and staff in care homes, with the first eight care homes now vaccinated across Sussex.

It was welcome news that the UK regulators have approved the vaccine developed by the University of Oxford and manufactured by AstraZeneca. This will be another significant boost to the COVID-19 vaccination programme. As further guidance is issued, the NHS will work through how it will deliver it to people across Sussex. This will not delay vaccinations already planned and the sites due to go live this week will continue with the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

Importantly, there has been new guidance issued which changes when the second dose of the vaccine should be delivered – changing the second appointment from 21 days to within 12 weeks. This will be important to share with the public and patients and your help with this would be appreciated.

The roll out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme continues to be an incredible effort from the NHS Trusts, member practices and from teams across the CCGs, showing partnership working at its best.

**Community Venues**

**Can I propose my community venue as the site for a vaccination service?**

The NHS is extremely grateful for the support of local communities and the many kind offers to use community centres and other venues to establish a vaccination service.

Sites are put forward by local GPs, working together through Primary Care Networks, as part of their wider proposals for staffing and delivering a local vaccination service. Sites need to meet a strict set of criteria covering a range of factors including security, IT infrastructure, power, access, and the need for the fabric of the facilities to meet the required standards for infection prevention and control.

A large number of sites across Sussex are currently going through the process to ensure they are ready to start vaccinating and will be going live over the next few weeks subject to national approval and the availability of vaccine supplies. Once these are approved and operational, the NHS will look again to see whether there are any gaps across our communities and then work with partners to identify any potential locations.

In the meantime, it is important to continue to keep everyone safe by washing hands regularly, wearing a face mask in public places and maintaining social distancing.

Thank you for your help in reiterating the Keep West Sussex Safe message and for keeping your residents informed.

**Adrian Moss**