

COVID-19 vaccination programme in Southampton - June 2021

1. Context

- 1.1. The successful roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccination programme continues. Thanks to the fantastic efforts of our colleagues running vaccination sites in the city, volunteers and partners, more than 235,000 doses of the vaccine have been delivered across Southampton to date.
- 1.2. The COVID-19 vaccination programme is run at a Hampshire and Isle of Wight level (on the footprint of the Integrated Care System, known as ICS). Jenny Erwin is the Senior Responsible Officer for the ICS and takes the overall strategic lead on the vaccination roll out. In Southampton, the roll out is supported by Dr Debbie Chase, Director of Public Health at Southampton City Council, and Phil Aubrey-Harris, Deputy Director of Primary Care (Southampton) at NHS Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG).
- 1.3. Southampton's [COVID-19 Local Outbreak Management Plan](#) provides all partners with our guide to preventing further infections, and outlines our approach and governance around supporting the vaccination roll out and boosting vaccine confidence in the city.
- 1.4. Together with the rest of the UK, we have offered the vaccine to those in priority group order, in-line with recommendations from the Joint Committee On Vaccinations and Immunisation (JCVI). The priority groups are as follows:

Priority group number	Risk group
1	Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
2	All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3	All those 75 years of age and over
4	All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those under 16 years of age)
5	All those 65 years of age and over
6	Adults aged 16 to 65 years in an at-risk group
7	All those 60 years of age and over
8	All those 55 years of age and over
9	All those 50 years of age and over
10	Rest of the adult population

- 1.5. At least 83% of people in Southampton aged 40 and over have received their first dose of the vaccine. We remain on track to meet the national target of offering all adults a first dose by the end of July.
- 1.6. Latest weekly statistics on COVID-19 vaccinations delivered are published by NHS England and NHS Improvement on their website. Local data is analysed by our Public Health team.
- 1.7. People aged 18 and over are now being invited to make an appointment to receive a vaccine via the national booking service and we continue to strongly encourage everyone who receives an invitation to receive a COVID-19 vaccine, whether it is for a first or second dose, to take up the offer as soon as possible.
- 1.8. This paper provides an update on the success of the programme to date in the city.

2. Programme delivery across Hampshire and Isle of Wight

- 2.1. Following recommendations of JCVI, the core aim of the programme is to reduce cases of serious COVID-19 infection and COVID-19 related deaths. As such, the priority groups for vaccination have been those aged over 50, front line staff, people aged 16 to 64 with an underlying clinical risk and their carers, because they represent 99% of COVID-19 mortality to date.
- 2.2. This core aim is being achieved locally, with the vaccine protecting people most at risk of dying from COVID and preventing hospital admissions. The table below outlines the success across Hampshire and Isle of Wight against this aim:

Priority group	Impact of vaccine	Impact across HIOW
Older Peoples Care homes	One life saved for every 20 people vaccinated	500 lives saved
People aged 80+	One life saved for every 160 people vaccinated	680 lives saved
People aged 75 to 79	One life saved for every 350 people vaccinated	221 lives saved
People aged 70 to 74	One life saved for every 600 people vaccinated	166 lives saved
People aged 65 to 69	One life saved for every 1,000 people vaccinated	65 lives saved

2.3. In addition to lives saved, evidence suggests that the vaccination programme has reduced hospital admissions, reduced long term effects of COVID-19, and reduced transmission.

2.4. The principles of our approach locally have been as follows:

- **Leadership and Decision-Making:** Our programme will be flexible, engaging, responsive and reactive as needed based on available evidence and intelligence, being data led at all times.
- **Empowerment at the Operational Level:** Our local teams, Clinical and Operational staff must be given the time and space to deliver responsively in their local place. We will support them with an overarching programme framework and central team to solve problems, foster local innovations, share learning and meet our common aims and objectives.
- **Equity in approach:** We will be inclusive and tackle inequalities by addressing individual concerns, particular circumstances such as medical condition, age or ethnic background. We will work with local authorities and Directors of Public Health to ensure we have all the data we need to understand the uptake and tailor efforts locally.
- **Joint working with our Local Resilience Forum partners and our Frimley ICS colleagues:** We will embed our programme within the HIOW LRF to ensure we are working closely together, making the best use of resources and utilising all offers of support whilst fully supporting the needs of all partners within the HIOW community. We will ensure our joint working arrangements with our Frimley health partners are embedded in our plans.

2.5. The vaccination programme has been delivered across Hampshire and Isle of Wight using a range of methods. These have been:

Method	Detail	Sites in Southampton
Hospital hubs	Focusing on NHS and social care staff	University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust NHS offices in Oakley Road, Millbrook
Local vaccine services	Provided by GPs working together as Primary Care Networks (PCNs)	Adelaide Health Centre, Millbrook Royal South Hants Hospital, city centre

		<p>Ladies Walk Surgery, Thornhill Park</p> <p>Chessel Avenue Surgery, Bitterne</p> <p>St Peters Surgery, Woolston</p> <p>University Health Centre, Highfield</p>
Large vaccination centres	Large sites based within local communities and convenient for transport networks	NHS offices, Oakley Road, Millbrook. This service is provided by Solent NHS Trust.
Local pharmacies	Some local pharmacies are offering vaccinations on an appointment to those invited	<p>Boots Pharmacy, West Quay Retail Park, Southampton</p> <p>There are also other pharmacy locations close to Southampton, such as in Eastleigh and Totton.</p>
Roving model / outreach / pop-up clinics	PCNs and Solent NHS Trust have supported a number of roving and outreach vaccination clinics, such as within care homes and housebound settings, and targeting specific populations, such as ethnic minority groups and people who are homeless.	Numerous locations across Southampton. See section 5.

- 2.6. In order to support the delivery of the vaccination programme, we have:
- Expanded vaccination workforce to support delivery, deploying additional staff and volunteers.
 - Successfully flexed the delivery model to accommodate constantly changing supply of vaccine, JCVI guidance and national deployment strategies.
 - A very successful partnership approach – across the NHS and with partners including local authorities, police, fire service, social care, third sector, intelligence units, local community leaders, communication teams and many more.
 - A high level of engagement from PCNs.

- Established four large vaccination centres at pace across Hampshire and Isle of Wight, with Oakley Road in Millbrook being the first site to go live in the ICS thanks to the work of Solent NHS Trust.
 - Full coverage of all our care homes, residential care and supported living (older people, learning disability and mental health).
 - Ensured a strong communications and engagement strategy has been in place, working with national and local partners.
- 2.7. Our partnership approach across the NHS and partners including local authorities, Hampshire Constabulary, Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service, social care, third sector, intelligence units, community leaders and more continues to be successful. We are extremely grateful to our colleagues, volunteers and partners who are supporting delivery of the programme in our communities. The continued success of the programme locally is testament to their incredible ongoing efforts, which are saving lives.
- 2.8. The heart of the local vaccination programme is its workforce. At the start of the programme, we promoted a local campaign to attract staff into the service. Our lead employer is University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust via their temporary staffing provider NHS Professionals. This was put in place in compliance with the national plan to recruit staff into the vaccination programme across England. The close working and partnership relationships within the system, and at regional and national level with a range of partners should be celebrated.
- 2.9. Through our varied attraction campaigns (local and system-wide), across Hampshire and Isle of Wight we have successfully recruited 1,374 paid workers and have received very strong support from voluntary sector to support our local sites. In Southampton, we have been grateful to receive the support of a number of organisations, and the coordination from SO:Linked (provided by Southampton Voluntary Services).
- 2.10. The largest gap in workforce remains registered practitioners, where recruitment remains open.

3. The vaccination process for our population

- 3.1. When it is the right time people will be contacted to make their appointments. For most people they will receive a letter either from their GP or the national booking system; this will include all the information they need, including their NHS number. Some services are currently also phoning and texting patients to invite them in.

- 3.2. It is also possible to book a vaccination online at nhs.uk/covidvaccination, or by calling 119. You can also wait to be contacted by a local GP-led service, run by a PCN. You need to make an appointment in advance before going to a vaccination service.
- 3.3. People with history of a severe allergy to the ingredients of the vaccines should not be vaccinated. Clinicians will discuss this with people before vaccinating them.
- 3.4. The Pfizer/BioNTech and Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccines are available in Southampton. These vaccines have been shown to be safe and offer high levels of protection, and have been given regulatory approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
- 3.5. You cannot usually choose which vaccine you have. You will only be offered a specific vaccine if you're either:
 - pregnant
 - aged under 40 and do not have a health condition that increases your risk of getting seriously ill from COVID-19If this applies to you, you'll only be shown appointments for the Pfizer/BioNTech or Moderna vaccine when you book your COVID-19 vaccination appointments online. If you book through your GP surgery, we advise you to inform them of the above information relevant to them.
- 3.6. Following guidance from the Government and the JCVI, we continue to bring forward appointments for a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine from 12 to eight weeks for anyone in the first nine priority groups who is yet to receive their second vaccination. This means people at greater risk of getting seriously ill due to COVID-19 can get maximum protection sooner. People should continue to attend their second dose appointments and nobody needs to contact the NHS. We are contacting those who should bring their appointment forward.
- 3.7. All those living in England can now get their COVID-19 vaccination status in digital or paper format. Those who have had two doses of an approved vaccine can show this as proof of their vaccination status when travelling abroad to some countries or territories. It is important to note that people are asked not to contact their GP surgery about their COVID-19 vaccination status. GPs cannot provide letters showing a person's COVID-19 vaccination status. It is possible to access your COVID-19 vaccination status through the free NHS App or by calling 119 and requesting a letter. This must be at least five working days after people have completed their course of the vaccine (two doses). It is expected that the letter will take

five working days to be delivered. It will be sent automatically to the address people have registered with their GP. The 119 call handler will not be able to see addresses to check the details and anyone who has recently moved house should ensure they have given their new address to their GP practice before calling 119.

4. Vaccination uptake in Southampton

4.1. Vaccine uptake in Southampton is currently slightly lower than the average for Hampshire and Isle of Wight.

4.2. As of 21 June 2021, the vaccination data for Southampton shows:

Age group	First dose	Second dose
Under 30	31%	16%
30-39	54%	23%
40-49	71%	37%
50-69	86%	80%
70+	95%	93%
Clinically extremely vulnerable	91%	86%
COVID-19 clinically at risk	83%	73%
NHS and social care worker	92%	88%

4.3. For cohorts 1-9, the uptake across Hampshire and Isle of Wight for JCVI cohorts 1-9 is 92% and for Southampton this figure is 88%.

4.4. We continue to analyse the reasons for uptake in the city, using feedback from our communities and using a wealth of available data. As the vaccination programme progresses at pace we continue to work in partnership to understand and tackle inequalities, addressing individual concerns and circumstances. Work is ongoing to identify communities and areas we need to focus on to increase uptake, taking into account demographics such as age, ethnicity and deprivation.

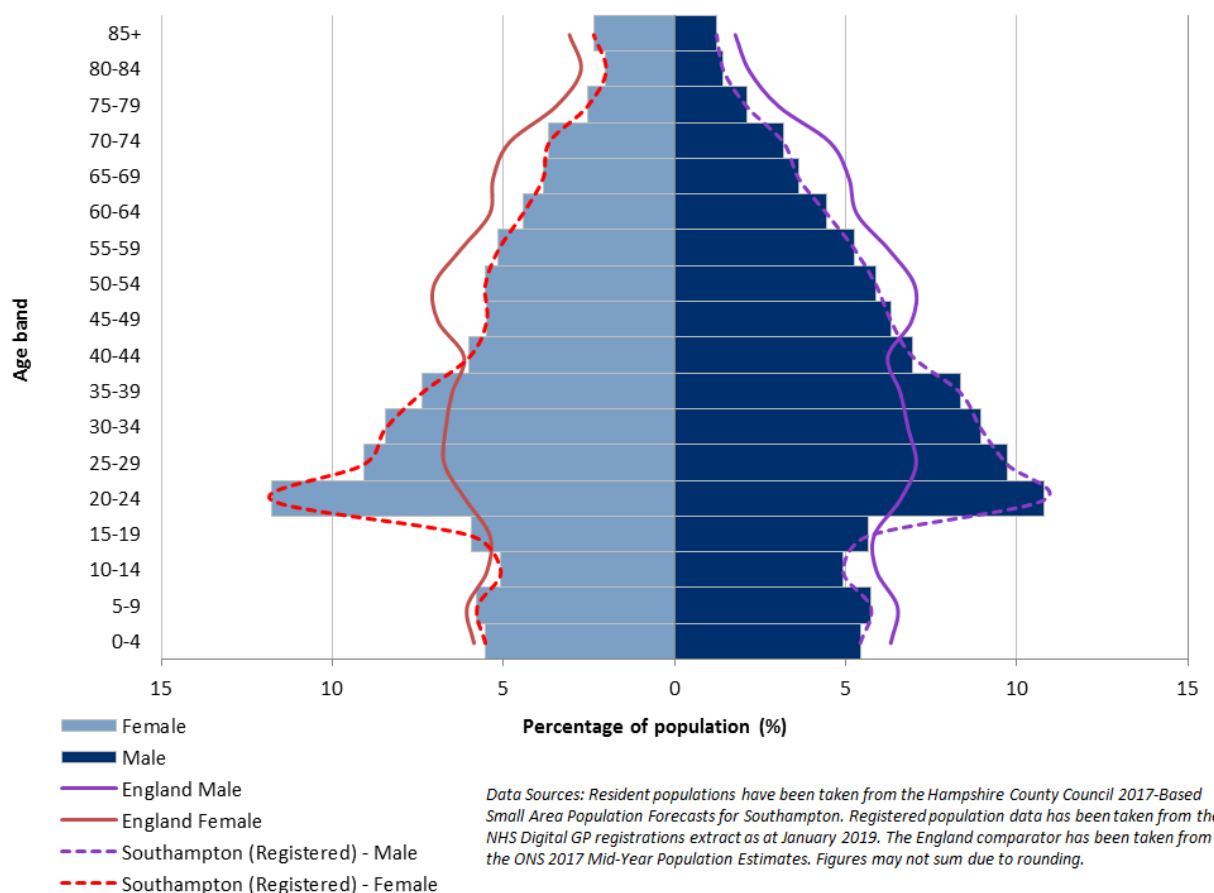
4.5. We recognise there is greater hesitancy among certain groups. Southampton has greater ethnic diversity, deprivation and mobility of the population (e.g. levels of students, migrant workforce). Census and GP data shows that Southampton has the most ethnically diverse population

compared to other areas in Hampshire and Isle of Wight as well as significant numbers of people who live in more deprived neighbourhoods.

4.6. Around 12% of Southampton’s population live in neighbourhoods within the 10% most deprived nationally.

4.7. The age profile of Southampton is younger than surrounding areas. The below population pyramid illustrates how our population differs from the national average using GP registration data for January 2019:

Population pyramid for Southampton CCG (NHS Digital Registered Population) as at January 2019



5. Increasing uptake of the COVID-19 vaccination in Southampton

5.1. A wider Five Year Health and Care Strategy for Southampton (2020-2025) is in place to tackle existing health inequalities and access to services in the city, we have been specifically taking these issues into account when implementing our vaccination programme. A strategic group for improving uptake, led by Public Health, is in place and this links into an ICS Vaccine Equalities Group led by Roshan Patel from NHS Hampshire, Southampton and Isle of Wight CCG.

- 5.2. A significant amount of outreach work has been done to reduce barriers for people who may be less likely to take up the offer of a vaccine. We have seen fantastic work in these areas, from pop-up clinics to work with community leaders and support for some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- 5.3. **Working with community leaders**
Solent NHS Trust has worked with local community leaders and invited them to volunteer at their large vaccination centres. This includes Imam Muhammad Ali from the Medina Mosque who volunteered at the Oakley Road centre in Southampton. He has also been filmed encouraging others to take up their invitation to receive the vaccine.
- 5.4. **Hosting pop-up clinics**
Our success to date includes a number of pop-up clinics in community locations, working with local Primary Care Networks (PCNs) and Solent NHS Trust. Hundreds of people have been vaccinated at clinics in places of worship, not only for the benefit of congregations but also the wider community. Pop-up clinics have been held in the city since March 2021, at a number of locations including Medina Mosque, Taqwar Mosque, Vedic Temple, the Gurwara Singh Sabha and the Mercy Revival Church.
- 5.5. We are now exploring how community venues could be used. We are continuing to evaluate these clinics and to date, our findings show positive feedback from those attending the clinics, increased accessibility to certain groups which suffer the health inequalities in society, improving relationships with the NHS, and wider benefits to community cohesion.
- 5.6. **Reaching out to communities**
PCNs have been directly contacting people in priority cohorts who had not yet responded to an invitation. By discussing any concerns one-to-one, it has been possible to subsequently book an appointment straightaway. Many PCNs have done this by phone, but also in innovative ways. For example, Southampton Central PCN has trialled door knocking exercises in St Mary's, Southampton, focusing on those in priority cohorts who have not yet had their vaccine.
- 5.7. Outreach work to our communities is underway, targeting groups with lower uptake. This includes a successful webinar with community leaders in the city centre, working closely with places of worship and community radio stations. Solent NHS Trust undertook a period of engagement addressing COVID-19 vaccination hesitancy within black British, African and Caribbean communities. The project evaluation for this piece of work

has been shared regionally as best practice by NHS England and Improvement.

- 5.8. Specific work is underway with Gypsy Roma and traveller communities and refugee and asylum seekers to promote the vaccine and understand any barriers to uptake, such as not being registered with a GP.
- 5.9. **Focused work on vulnerable groups**
Processes have been put in place to support clients of sexual health and HIV clinics to be vaccinated, with appropriate confidentiality arrangements. The city's homeless healthcare team has worked closely with Southampton City Council to vaccinate homeless people.

6. Looking to the future

- 6.1. We await guidance from the Government as to next steps once the total adult population in the UK has been offered the vaccination. The vaccination programme is likely to continue for a number of months in order for second doses to be given to all age groups.
- 6.2. Pilots are underway to test a possible 'booster' vaccine. Thousands of volunteers are to receive a "booster" COVID-19 vaccine in a new national clinical trial, led by University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust. The Cov-Boost trial, led by Professor Saul Faust, Chief Investigator and Director of National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) Southampton Clinical Research Facility, is studying the use of seven different COVID-19 vaccines when given as a third dose. It is the first in the world to provide vital data on the impact of a third dose on patients' immune responses. The trial is backed by £19.3m of funding from the Government's Vaccine Taskforce and running at 17 trial sites nationwide including University Hospital Southampton and the Portsmouth Research Hub, run by Portsmouth Hospitals University NHS Trust. The trial has received ethics approval from the NHS Research Ethics Committee, as well as approval from the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency. Initial findings are expected in September and will help inform decisions by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) on plans for a booster programme from this autumn, ensuring people who are most vulnerable are given the strongest possible protection over winter.