

# Coronavirus Vaccination in Devon

Briefing #16 – 23 April 2021

## Key messages

- **671,070 people** in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 18 April, while almost **210,000 second doses** have been given. This means more than 880,000 doses have been given in Devon. Two thirds of adults (aged 16+) in Devon have had at least one vaccination and one in five adults is now fully vaccinated.
- Three million people in the South West have had their first vaccination and one million have also had their second.
- People aged 44-49 are now eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine.
- Care workers are being urged to have their second dose to protect them and their patients.
- A series of videos and animations have been launched by the NHS to tackle disinformation and support people with mental illness.
- The chances of being infected with Covid-19 drop sharply after vaccination, according to research by the University of Oxford and Office for National Statistics.

## Animations launched to help tackle disinformation

- NHS England and NHS Improvement has launched a series of animations aimed at tackling disinformation about the COVID-19 vaccine.
- Aimed specifically at encouraging uptake in ethnic minority groups, the animations are available in 17 different languages and are suitable for use on a wide range of social media platforms.
- They cover key topics including vaccine safety, how it was tested, how it was developed so quickly, what is in it, and what the side effects are.
- Original files can be downloaded from the campaign resource centre in the form of [short clips](#) and also a [longer video](#), and the English versions are also available on [YouTube](#).

## COVID-19 vaccination videos to support people with mental illness

- A series of short videos on COVID-19 vaccination to support and encourage people with severe mental illness (SMI) to get their COVID-19 vaccines have been developed by Public Health England in collaboration with [Equally Well](#) UK and [NHS England](#), including GP professionals and experts by experience.
  - [Getting the COVID-19 vaccine: Personal experience guide for people with severe mental illness, Part 1](#)
  - [Getting the COVID-19 vaccine: Personal experience guide for people with severe mental illness, Part 2](#)
  - [COVID-19 vaccination: A guide for GPs and teams to support people with severe mental illness](#)
- These videos provide useful information for people with SMI to know to expect from the vaccination process and how to prepare before their appointments.

They also provide information for primary care professionals to better support people with SMI in their areas.

### Former Royal Marine Roy Warnes recognised for volunteering

- Former Royal Marine Roy Warnes was recognised by the NHS and military with a commendation during a small ceremony at South Brent Health Centre last [week](#).
- Over the last year Roy has spent his time volunteering at the COVID-19 testing station at South Brent. He was there at the site helping from the first day testing began there and has been instrumental in setting up more testing sites locally.
- While volunteering at the site, he works hard to ensure people have all the information they need. He now volunteers at the local vaccination centres. Roy is well known for his ability to keep people feeling calm and reassured when coming in for their injections.
- Roy said: "I like to see people happy with a smile on their face. When I recall my basic training with the Royal Marines, it gives me determination and I never like to start something that I can't finish."



### Vaccination data for Devon

- **671,070 people in Devon** received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 18 April, [vaccination data published by NHS England and NHS Improvement](#) shows, broken down as follows:

Age group	Number of first doses given	Approx % of age group received at least one dose*
80+	79,104	Estimated to be approx 95% or above for people aged 55 and over <sup>#</sup>
75-79	58,732	
70-74	77,303	
65-69	71,254	
60-64	76,379	
55-59	82,942	
50-54	77,862	91.6%
45-49	44,282	59.7%
Under 45	103,272	26.7%
Total (16+)	671,070	67.2%

\* Based on number of first doses given as a proportion of the 2019 ONS population estimates. Data sourced from NHS England and Improvement.

# Due to population growth since 2019, in some cases the tables show the number of vaccines given as higher than the 2019 population figures used.

- **65,186 second doses** were given in the last week, with **209,777** second doses given since the programme began in Devon.

## Reminder – centre moving from Westpoint Exeter to Greendale

- The large Covid vaccination centre in Exeter is to move from Westpoint to nearby Greendale on 7 May.
- Everyone with appointments at Westpoint until then should continue to attend as normal. There is no change to those appointments.
- **From 7 May, all existing appointments for second doses will move to Greendale but will take place on the same day and at the same time.**
- **The National Booking Service has been updated with messaging informing patients of the change to the location. There is no need to contact the NHS regarding your appointment.**
- A section of the Greendale site is being turned into a large vaccination centre by the NHS, with the centre meeting the same stringent safety requirements. It will offer plentiful parking and is only 2.9 miles and under 5 minutes' drive from Westpoint.
- Signage will be in place to guide patients to the new venue from all directions.

## Second doses

- Second doses normally take place 11-12 weeks after the first vaccination. GP practices may arrange them a couple of days in advance.
- The appointment system for second doses is complex as each patient needs to receive the same vaccine as the first, and there are limited days we can offer each vaccine at the vaccination sites due to the varying supplies received each week.
- The second vaccination can be carried out earlier or later for medical reasons, such as someone testing positive for the Covid-19 virus.
- If an interval longer than recommended is left between doses, the second dose should still be given and there is no need to restart the vaccine course.
- If people haven't heard about a second appointment after 12 weeks please contact [d-ccg.devonvaccinationsupport@nhs.net](mailto:d-ccg.devonvaccinationsupport@nhs.net) or call 01752 398836.

## Other important information

- **Three vaccines** are now being used in Devon; Pfizer-BioNTech, Oxford Astra Zeneca and Moderna. Moderna is the third Covid-19 vaccination to be offered by the NHS and uses RNA technology; similar to the Pfizer vaccine.
- Research by the University of Oxford and Office for National Statistics has concluded that the chances of being infected with Covid-19 drop by 70% after people are vaccinated.
- Two leading Muslim figures working in the NHS have joined other medical leaders and Islamic scholars in stressing that [Ramadan should not stop anyone](#) from getting the NHS Covid vaccination. Imam Yunus Dudhwala, Head of Chaplaincy at Barts Health NHS Trust, and Dr Farzana Hussain, a senior GP, stressed that getting the jab does not break the fast observed by Muslims during daylight hours over Ramadan.
- Three million people in the South west have had their first vaccination and one million have also had their second. Regional Director of NHSE/I South West, Elizabeth O'Mahony said: "This is a fantastic milestone, and everyone



involved in the vaccination rollout, both frontline and behind the scenes, should feel really proud. The success of the vaccination rollout has already contributed to dramatic falls in infections, hospitalisations and deaths from the virus.”

- [Anyone who is over 44, or in an eligible group](#), and hasn't yet had a first dose, is encouraged to make an appointment.
- Appointments can be made on the National Booking Service by calling 119 or going [online](#), or by responding to your GP practice about an appointment.
- The NHS is also inviting those eligible for a jab by letter and text, with some GP practices also calling unvaccinated patients personally to encourage uptake.

## Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine

- The UK's independent regulator, the MHRA, and the JCVI have both said that the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh the risks for the vast majority of adults.
- The government will follow the updated advice, which sets out that, as a precaution, it is preferable for people under the age of 30 with no underlying health conditions to be offered an alternative vaccine where possible once they are eligible.
- Everybody who has already had a first dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine should receive a second dose of the same brand, irrespective of age. The exception is a very small number of people who experienced blood clots with low platelet counts from their first vaccination.
- By 31 March, 20.2 million doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca had been given in the UK meaning the overall risk of these blood clots is approximately 4 people in a million who receive the vaccine.
- As a precautionary measure, anyone who has symptoms four days or more after vaccination is advised to seek prompt medical advice, such as:
  - a new onset of severe or persistent headache, blurred vision, confusion or seizures
  - develop shortness of breath, chest pain, leg swelling or persistent abdominal pain
  - unusual skin bruising or pinpoint round spots beyond the injection site
- Anyone who suspects they have experienced a side effect linked with their COVID-19 vaccine should report it to the [Coronavirus Yellow Card website](#).
- If you need more information on the COVID-19 vaccination please visit: **[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/)**

## Vaccination isn't the only way we can fight Covid

The vaccine supply issue in April is a further reminder that everyone has a role to play in bringing the pandemic to an end – here's what local people can do:

- **Follow the [latest Government advice](#):**
  - Stay outside when meeting others
  - Remember - [Hands. Face. Space and Fresh Air](#).
  - You must wear a face covering in many indoor settings, such as shops and places of worship, and on public transport, unless you are exempt. This is the law.
  - You should continue to work from home where you can.
  - Minimise the number of journeys you make where possible.



- You should [get a test](#) and follow the [stay at home guidance](#) if you have COVID-19 symptoms.
- You should stay 2 metres apart from anyone who is not in your household or support bubble where possible, or 1 metre with extra precautions in place (such as wearing face coverings) if you cannot stay 2 metres apart.
- **When you get your call from the NHS for your vaccine, please take it up:**
  - The NHS will get in touch with you when it's your turn to be vaccinated. Please attend your appointment.
  - You will not be offered a choice of which vaccination you receive – approved vaccines are rigorously tested, safe and effective.
- **You may still transmit Covid after you have been vaccinated.**
  - Having the vaccine should protect you from becoming seriously ill from COVID-19, but you may still be a risk to others if you are exposed.
- **Use the NHS in the best way**
  - Think 111 first; or choose the right service for your needs: self-care, pharmacists, local minor injury services or your GP.

### **Further information and vaccination data**

For more information on vaccination and the health and care response to COVID-19, click on [www.togetherfordevon.uk/priorities/coronavirus-covid-19](http://www.togetherfordevon.uk/priorities/coronavirus-covid-19) or the [NHS website](#).

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