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Joined Up Care
Derbyshire

Stakeholder Bulletin

12 March 2021

Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19): Derby and Derbyshire stakeholder bulletin #48



Dear partners

There are now less than 100 COVID-19 patients in Derbyshire's hospitals for the first time in almost five months.

Inpatient numbers have fallen by more than half in the past week and as at March 8th we had 93 inpatients with COVID-19 in our hospitals across Derby, Chesterfield and Burton, down from a pandemic high of more than 700.

93 patients with the same illness is still a high number of patients to be in our hospitals at the same time, but represents a huge (welcome) reduction. The continued decline in community infections is in line with the national picture and it would seem that we are now passed the peak as the number of hospital admissions is falling faster than the number of new cases.

The continued downward trend in infections is of course welcome news, but with the easing of lockdown measures beginning this week we will continue to proceed with caution and will be paying close attention to community transmission rates of COVID-19.

As I think we all know, now is not the time to stop doing the things that have got us to this point. We must continue to get tested if we think we might have coronavirus, stay vigilant by following the hands, face, space guidance and maintain social distancing measures whilst the vaccination programme continues and

the wider population is protected.

We are fast approaching the first 100 days of the vaccination programme and as at Tuesday 9th March over 22.5 million people in the UK have received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. This week saw people aged 56 to 59 being invited to book their COVID-19 vaccination and people aged between 50 and 55 are set to be invited shortly.

The vaccination programme in Derby and Derbyshire is on-track to meet the 18th April target to vaccinate priority groups 5-9 as defined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). We are ebbing ever closer to administering 500,000 doses of the vaccine in Derbyshire and as vaccine supplies start to increase, we are planning for further acceleration as we head towards Easter.

As the vaccination programme continues to make progress I would once again like to thank everyone who has helped to drive it forward and for the extraordinary dedication, skill and compassion they have shown along the way.

With best wishes and please do stay safe.

Chris

Chris Clayton
Accountable Officer & Chief Executive
NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG

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Items included in this update

- National update
- Update for Derby and Derbyshire
- Health services
- Partner news
- Support, advice, guidance and wellbeing
- Protect the capacity of all our health and care services
- What you can do to help
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National updates

[Boris Johnson thanks teachers for 'astonishing' work and praises home-schoolers](#)

Read the Prime Minister's full statement from Monday's Downing Street press conference [here](#).

[Don't think pandemic is over, Whitty warns](#)

Unlocking too quickly would lead to a substantial surge in Covid infections, the UK's chief medical adviser

says.

[Nightingale hospitals to close from April](#)

The network of emergency Nightingale hospitals set up to cope with a surge of COVID-19 cases is to close from April.

[Impact of NHS Test and Trace 'still unclear'](#)

Baroness Dido Harding, head of the National Institute for Health Protection, which runs the system, has said performance had been improving with more people who tested positive being reached and more of their close contacts being asked to isolate.

[The man with 'super antibodies'](#)

John Hollis has antibodies that can kill the virus and variants but the discovery was nearly missed.

['Very special day' as Darlington couple reunited at care home](#)

A couple who have been married 67 years but have not been together since the first Covid lockdown have said it is "absolutely wonderful" to be reunited.

[COVID-19 vaccination: why you are being asked to wait](#)

I've had my coronavirus jab – what now?

[Tamil](#), [Punjabi](#), [Urdu](#), [Sylheti](#), [Gujarati](#)

Follow the links in the 'related' section for lots more videos in South Asian languages.

Explainers in South Asian languages



[NHS rolls out capsule cameras to test for cancer](#)

Miniature cameras which patients can swallow to get checked for cancer are being trialled across the NHS.

Statistics

UK Summary | Data from <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>

The [national release of vaccination statistics by the NHS on Thursday](#), indicates that Derbyshire continues to vaccinate people at a good pace.

Update for Derby and Derbyshire

Current situation

Derby and Derbyshire continues to experience a downward trend in COVID-19 infections. Whilst there are slightly higher rates in Southern Derbyshire and Derbyshire Dales – the latter being related to an outbreak at open prison, HMP Sudbury - the overall picture is one that is showing a gradual decline in community infections, and there is a sense now that Derby and Derbyshire is passed the peak. This is of course welcome news, but as stated last week the health and care system in Derby and Derbyshire is still under very significant pressure and we have to be mindful of the factors such as the reopening of schools that could lead to increases in COVID-19 activity.

The view that we are now passed the peak is echoed nationally by the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, who has observed that that the number of hospital admissions is falling faster than the number of new cases, with the fall in hospitalisations also faster among the age groups already vaccinated (compared with those in younger age groups awaiting their vaccination).

We are seeing fewer hospital admissions alongside fewer cases of COVID-19 arising from (and within)

care homes. This is thanks to the infection control measures in place and the roll out of the vaccination programme.

This steady decline in admissions, particularly among the COVID-19 vaccination priority groups (1-4), has helped to reduce our hospital bed occupancy rates which are much improved since October 2020.

Mobility data for the end of February indicates that more people left their house either for exercise or to go to work and whilst this might seem like cause for concern, the data and reports suggest that people are still very much abiding by the national restrictions.

This is encouraging news and means that we are really starting to see the impact of the vaccination programme and lockdown restrictions significantly limiting the spread of COVID-19 to great effect.

COVID-19 vaccination programme

We are now more than 12 weeks into the vaccination programme with over 22.5 million people in the UK having received their first dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. As vaccine supplies start to increase, we are planning for further acceleration as we head towards Easter.

This week saw [people aged 56 to 59](#) being invited to book their COVID-19 vaccination and people aged between 50 and 55 are set to be invited shortly.

To support the national target, the vaccination programme in Derby and Derbyshire is on-track to meet the 18 April target to vaccinate priority groups 5-9 as defined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

New video and leaflet to help patients understand what to expect when they go for their COVID-19 vaccination

[Click here](#) to access:

- A video narrated by Derby GP Dr Raj Komal which explains what happens when you go for your COVID-19 vaccination. The video is available in English, Urdu, Punjabi, Bengali, Slovak and Polish.
- An illustrative guide which explains what happens when you go for your COVID-19 vaccination.

National booking system begins SMS/text message booking trial with 55-year-olds

People aged 55 years old have [become the first to receive SMS messages](#) from the National Booking Service, inviting them for Covid-19 vaccination appointments.

National Vaccination Programme Developments

To further support the national roll-out, NHS England and NHS Improvement (NHSE/I) have issued a letter setting out the key priorities and actions for immediate review.

The letter underlines the importance of ensuring maximum reach/uptake across JCVI priority cohorts, including second dose planning and delivery preparations for vaccination when supplies increase. There are also new recommendations around how to boost vaccination uptake from within social care staff groups.

At this point, two million more invites through the national booking system have been sent to people aged 60 to 63 years-old and Primary Care Networks are continuing to invite their patients who are identified as being at high risk due to specific health conditions/or living with a learning disability.

As reported last week, this follows the welcome news of sixteen frontline charities (including The British Heart Foundation, Macmillan Cancer Support and Mencap) joining up to form a new partnership to encourage those with long-term health conditions and their carers to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

Tackling misinformation surrounding the COVID-19 vaccine

False information about COVID-19 vaccines could cost lives. The Government have developed the [SHARE checklist](#) to help people identify false information to help ensure people don't inadvertently contribute to the spread of harmful content. The Government have also worked with the University of Cambridge to create a [5-minute game](#) that helps protect against COVID-19 misinformation.

Be kind as the vaccination programme progresses

Following reports of abusive behaviour towards staff at our vaccination centres we are urging people to be kind as the vaccination programme progresses. People who are being abusive or turn up for a vaccination without an appointment will not be vaccinated.



Vaccination statistics

Vaccination statistics are published every Thursday and are available [here](#).

Vaccination FAQs and the latest information on the community vaccination programme

Vaccination 'frequently asked questions' and the latest information on the community vaccination programme in Derby and Derbyshire is available [here](#).

Health services

Easy ways to order repeat prescriptions

There are many ways to order repeat prescriptions, and the simplest is by downloading the NHS App onto your smartphone or tablet. You can order repeat prescriptions and send them to your local pharmacy through a few easy steps. Download the App from Google Play or Apple App Store [here](#).

Additionally, you can order repeat prescriptions through a number of other avenues, including:

- Electronic Repeat dispensing (Batch prescription)
- GP Practice online ordering service
- The medicine order line
- Medicine order line – email callback system

Read the full guide on how to use these ways to order repeat prescriptions [here](#)

Urgent Treatment Centres

There are five [Urgent Treatment Centres](#) across Derby and Derbyshire. Urgent Treatment Centres (UTCs) are GP-led, open at least 12 hours a day, every day, offer appointments that can be booked through [111](#) or through a GP referral, and are equipped to diagnose and deal with many of the most common ailments people attend A&E for.

Your GP practice continues to be open for all health matters

[This animation](#) explains how people can access their GP practice, including how to get in contact, the different ways care may be delivered, and how face-to-face appointments have changed.

Access to primary care services (GP, Pharmacy, Dentist and Opticians)

[This document](#), produced by NHS England and NHS Improvement, provides helpful information about how primary care services are currently operating.

Help us help you

For more information about the work the NHS in Derbyshire has done to ensure that essential services are safe and available to you when you need them please [click here](#).

Services

Joined Up Care Derbyshire has an area of their [website](#) dedicated to bringing you all the latest health service information. For residents without internet access a phone service is available via Healthwatch

If you would like to access the individual websites of our hospital and community NHS partners, these are listed below:

[University Hospitals of Derby and Burton NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[Derbyshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust](#)

[East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust](#)

[DHU Health Care](#) (provider of the NHS 111 telephone helpline for the East Midlands as well as the out of hours GP services in Derbyshire and Leicestershire)

Partner news

Public health chief urges residents in New Mills and Whaley Bridge to use new testing site

The test centre at New Mills Adult Education Centre opened on Wednesday 10 March and will be open for six weeks.

[Ilkeston college students pitch in at Covid vaccination centre as first step to career in public services](#)

A group of Ilkeston students has been recruited to carry out vital duties at Derbyshire's largest Covid-19 vaccine centre.

Stroke campaign relaunches

The [Act FAST campaign](#), supported by the Stroke Association, has relaunched to alert people to the immediate need to ring 999 if they have symptoms of stroke. It follows data suggesting some people put off seeking help during the first months of the pandemic.

Convalescent blood plasma donation

NHS Blood and Transplant still needs people who have had COVID-19 to come forward as [potential donors of convalescent blood plasma](#) to support future trials and treatment.

See also:

Derbyshire - [Community testing for COVID-19 - Derbyshire County Council](#)

Derby City - [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) testing sites in Derby | Derby City Council](#)

Views wanted: Digital Mental Health Service in Derby and Derbyshire

If you're a younger person with experience using digital mental health services in Derby and Derbyshire or a parent, carer or guardian of a young person who requires mental health support we want to hear from you.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Kooth> - Aimed at all Children and Young People (aged 11 – 25) in Derby and Derbyshire.

<https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/Qwell> - Aimed at Parents, Carers and Guardians of Children who require online mental health support in Derby and Derbyshire.

Surveys close on Monday 15th March | [Find out more](#)

Support, guidance, advice and wellbeing

[Access coronavirus business innovation support package](#)

[Easy read guide to personal health budgets](#)

Mental health

[Find a local NHS urgent mental health helpline](#)

[NHS talking therapies can help you if you're struggling to cope with feelings of anxiety or depression](#)

Patient-friendly information on coronavirus

Accessible, high-quality information on COVID-19 is available at library.nhs.uk/coronavirus-resources.

Advice on healthcare for refugees and migrants

Public Health England has [published advice](#) on healthcare for refugees and migrants.

Support for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller communities

Friends, Families and Travellers has a [service directory](#) on its website, and relevant information on [COVID-19](#).

COVID-19 vaccination: British Sign Language resources

British Sign Language (BSL) [videos](#) on COVID-19 vaccination.

Coronavirus (COVID-19): providing unpaid care

[Information](#) for people who are caring, unpaid, for friends or family during the coronavirus outbreak.

Enabling safe and effective volunteering during coronavirus (COVID-19)

[This guidance](#) aims to help organisations and groups understand how to safely and effectively involve volunteers during the pandemic.

Other useful links

[Bereavement support](#)

[Updated self-care guidance this winter and during the pandemic](#)

[Over 50s alcohol helpline](#)

[Feeding Derbyshire](#)

[The Bee Tree Community – ending social isolation](#)

[Derbyshire Community Response Unit](#)

[Derbyshire Voluntary Action](#)

[Derby Community Hub](#)

[Community Action Derby](#)

[Community Directory Derbyshire](#)

[COVID-19 Survivors Group UK](#)

Wellbeing, health advice and support for health, social care and community staff

Support in relation to the COVID-19 virus is available on the Joined Up Care Derbyshire website [here](#).

Protect the capacity of our health and care services

- Follow the [national guidance](#) on restrictions
- [Download](#) the NHS COVID-19 app
- Isolate if ill
- Wash hands regularly
- Wear a face covering when required
- Maintain a safe social distance as appropriate

What you can do to help

Help us to save lives by reinforcing key messages in this bulletin with your key contacts. This should

include the updated Government message to stay alert to stay safe. Please use your social media accounts to share only official messages from Government and NHS websites and accounts as there is a lot of misinformation about coronavirus being shared online.

Download previous editions of this bulletin

You can download previous editions of this bulletin [here](#).

Contact

If you have any feedback, or questions, please email us at: ddccg.enquiries@nhs.net.

Disclaimer:

While every effort has been made to ensure the contents of this bulletin are accurate and up-to-date you will appreciate that the situation relating to the coronavirus pandemic can change rapidly and so NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG do not accept any responsibility of any omission as it is not deliberate. Nevertheless, we will appreciate provision of accurate information to improve our work. Where links are provided to external content, NHS Derby and Derbyshire CCG holds no responsibility for such content or accuracy.