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Presiding Officer
All MSPs
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13 January 2021

Dear Colleagues,

Following my Statement in Parliament earlier today, I am writing to provide you with a copy of the Vaccine Deployment Plan we published this afternoon on the Scottish Government website, further detail on the 'Green Book' description of who is covered by the terms frontline healthcare worker and social care worker, together with a recent FAQ we produced which you may find useful.

I have attached a copy of my Statement and the link to the Vaccine Deployment Plan is [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): Vaccine Deployment Plan 2021 - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/Coronavirus-(COVID-19)-Vaccine-Deployment-Plan-2021)

For ease, the Scottish COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline is 0800 030 8013 and the central email address for all offers of help is offersofsupport.vaccine@gov.scot

As I said earlier, the most recent 7 day rate of COVID-19 cases is 262 per 100,000 with a test positivity rate of 10.1%. The new virus strain is accounting for a growing number of positive cases and as we know, is significantly more infectious. All of this presents us with significant challenges and our NHS is facing greater pressure than at any point in the pandemic. But the approval of two vaccines and most recently, a third offer us all real hope. As we vaccinate more and more of our fellow citizens that hope becomes more real.

Between December 8th when we began the national vaccination programme and the 12th January we have given the first dose vaccination to:

- Just over 80% of care home residents and 55% of care home staff
- Just under 52% of frontline NHS and social care staff and in the 8 days since the 4th of January,
- Just over 2% of those aged 80 or over living in the community – a programme that is scaling up rapidly from the 11th. By the first week in February we will complete 100% first dose vaccination for those groups

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Based on vaccine supply confirmed to date, the milestones to come are:

- By the first week in February, we will have given first dose vaccination to all JCVI Priority 1 and 2. That's all residents and staff in care homes for older adults; all frontline health and social care staff and those aged 80 and over living in the community;
- By mid-February we will have offered first vaccine dose to those aged 70 and over and those who are clinically vulnerable and
- By early March, all those aged 65 and over.

This covers JCVI priority groups 1 to 5, a total of just over 1.4million people offered first dose vaccination and from the end of February, we will begin second dose vaccination. Our current modelling on required supply to run these two vaccination streams in parallel indicates that we will be delivering around 400,000 vaccinations a week from the end of February.

From next week, more vaccination sites will be operational across Scotland– community pharmacies, mobile vaccination clinics, small scale mass vaccination centres and large vaccination centres capable of delivering in excess of 20,000 vaccinations a week in a single location. Some of these have already been secured – P+J Live at The Event Complex Aberdeen (TECA), Ravenscraig Sports Facility in Motherwell, QMU in Musselburgh and the EICC. Right now the NHS Louisa Jordan is, amongst other work, also acting as a vaccination centre but rapid work is underway to secure more sites across the Greater Glasgow and Clyde area and in the weeks ahead. This programme will be the largest of its kind ever undertaken. NHS Boards will identify locations for mass vaccination and local access, and manage local vaccination clinics.

The intention to vaccinate 400,000 a week requires a daily workforce of 1700 whole time equivalent vaccinations and 950 WTE support staff. To achieve that number, we are likely to need up to 3400 vaccinators depending on the proportion of parttime to full time staff.

There are currently around 5,500 individual vaccinators registered on our national Vaccination Management Tool and this will not include all participating GPs, many of whom will use their own local systems. Over 4,000 people have participated in national training on administering the Pfizer vaccine and around 4,700 people have received training on the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine. This is in addition to training delivered within individual Health Boards.

Additionally, arrangements have been made to supplement the core vaccination workforce involved in delivering our seasonal flu programme with professionals from the fields of general practice, pharmacy, dentistry and optometry. A new National Protocol will also enhance the role that Healthcare Support Workers can play. We have directed NHS Education for Scotland to refer all applicants remaining on the Health and Social Care Accelerated Recruitment Portal to territorial Health Boards for consideration and we have written to Regulatory bodies including the GMC and NMC regarding the deployment of those on emergency registers as we work to deliver the biggest vaccination programme ever seen in Scotland.

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We are working with the voluntary and third sector to set up a centralised volunteer coordination hub to make good use of the locally offered support and in particular for deployment at mass vaccination clinics and to help people who need assistance to access local clinics. Of course as I made clear, individuals who are unable to leave their own home will receive their vaccination at home.

I am grateful for the support of the armed forces and pleased that we are now able to expand that support particularly around larger vaccination sites to ensure fast and assured site preparation and facilities. I am also very grateful indeed to the many individual, business and organisations who have offered support and I hope the centralised contact point noted at the start to this letter is useful to you should any offers of support be made to you.

I'd be grateful if you could assist us by making sure your constituents know that they will be contacted by letter or phone when it is their turn to be vaccinated. I know that very many people are anxious to be vaccinated and I greatly appreciate their patience as we vaccinate first those at the greatest risk of serious illness or death from COVID-19.

Finally can I remind you that from 11 January daily statistics on numbers vaccinated is published on the Scottish Government website and PHS will publish weekly statistics each Wednesday, from today also broken down by numbers vaccinated in each JCVI group and by geography.

I will continue to provide further updates to you as the programme continues. I found the briefing session we had on 4th January very helpful and will look to arrange another towards the end of January.

I hope you find this update helpful and the information it contains continues to keep you informed. Please contact cabsechs@gov.scot should you have any concerns.

Kind regards,



JEANE FREEMAN

ANNEX A

Definitions – Green Book

Frontline Healthcare workers

Patient facing, frontline healthcare workers. Staff who have frequent face-to-face clinical contact with patients and who are directly involved in patient care in either secondary or primary care/community settings. This includes doctors, dentists, midwives and nurses, vaccinators, paramedics and ambulance drivers, pharmacists, optometrists, occupational therapists, physiotherapists, radiographers and any associated support staff of independent contractors. It should include those working in public, private, third sector and non-standard healthcare settings such as hospices, and communitybased mental health or addiction services. It should include Healthcare Improvement Scotland inspectors who are required to visit premises. Temporary staff, including those working in the COVID-19 vaccination programme, students, trainees and volunteers who are working with patients must also be included.

Social care worker

Social care staff directly involved in the care of their service users and others involved directly in delivering social care such that they and vulnerable patients/clients are at increased risk of exposure. This includes, for example, workers in residential care for adults and children, supported housing, and also personal assistants and social workers who have face-to-face contact in the course of their duties including child, adult, mental health officer duties and public protection. It should include Care Inspectorate staff who are required to visit care homes and other registered services. Young people age 16-18 years, who are employed in, studying or in training for health and social care work should be offered vaccination alongside their colleagues if a suitable vaccine is available.

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