

The Covid-19 vaccination programme continues across central Lancashire

Covid-19 vaccination services are now well-established at Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust and a number of community based sites run by local GP practices.

To vaccinate as many people as possible, local GP practices are working together in their Primary Care Networks. Known as PCNs, they are groups of practices sharing their resources and expertise to support patients.

Each PCN across central Lancashire has a dedicated vaccination site where staff from across the area come together to provide the service. This may mean that you do not receive your vaccination at your local practice, but this will not affect the way patients' are prioritised.

Vaccinations are also taking place in care homes across the area, with teams from local practices visiting homes to vaccinate residents and staff.

The NHS is working hard to make sure those at greatest risk are offered the vaccine first in line with the official guidance. We know lots of people will be eager to get protected but please don't worry if you or your family members have not been contacted yet, you will be contacted when it is the right time for you to book your appointment. We would ask you to please not to contact the NHS to get an appointment until you are invited to do so. GP practices and other services are very busy at the moment and doing so could prevent a patient who needs help from getting through.

Eligible patients who have not yet been vaccinated are also now beginning to receive an invitation letter from the national NHS vaccination booking service inviting them to attend one of the new regional vaccination centres. You should not attend the venues without first being invited and cannot book an appointment without a letter.

It is important that you take up the offer of a vaccination as soon as you are invited. However, if there is a reason that you are not able to book your appointment at the nearest Regional Vaccination Centre you can choose to wait until the local service in your area contacts you and invites you in. Although you may have to wait longer for this to happen.

You will be automatically invited to attend your local vaccination service, you do not need to contact your local GP practice.

All vaccination venues are following a range of measures to keep you safe from Covid-19 including cleaning and disinfecting and having social distancing in waiting areas. Please also wear a face covering to your appointment.

We are hearing stories from across central Lancashire of how the vaccination programme is helping local residents to look to the future, thank you again for your patience and support as we continue to vaccinate as many people as possible.



After receiving her vaccination, local resident Judith Eyre said:

"I feel a sense of relief after having received my coronavirus vaccination today. The entire process was very efficient and the vaccination itself was painless. I'm grateful to all of our hard-working NHS staff."

Dr Amrit Ryatt from Sandy Lane Surgery, Leyland has been supporting the programme in South Ribble said:

"The atmosphere at the Covid-19 vaccination clinic is calm and peaceful. I would say to anyone who is feeling unsure or uncertain about coming down for your vaccination when invited, please feel free to ask us any questions, we are here to help."

