Delivering the NHS Covid-19 vaccination

A fourth Covid-19 Vaccination Centre is opening next week in Herefordshire and Worcestershire as the programme continues to make excellent progress.

The Vaccination Centre, based at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern, will open next week (Tuesday 2 March). This represents another significant milestone for us following the opening of the Artrix Theatre in Bromsgrove in January, and then Elgar House in Hereford and St Peter's Baptist Church in Worcester earlier this month.

We also have a very impressive network of other local facilities across our two counties that are providing vaccination to help defeat Covid-19, including 17 GP-led vaccination service sites and a community pharmacy on Redditch.

In the latest phase of our rollout and in line with JCVI guidance, 65 to 69 year olds and adult carers have now been invited to receive their first vaccinations, with people aged 64 also set to be called forward later this week. GPs have also been offering jabs to their most clinically vulnerable patients.

Figures <u>published today</u> by NHS England show that nearly 260,000 first vaccinations have now been administered across Herefordshire and Worcestershire. This means that more than 40% of our population (those aged over 16) have now had their first dose and have some protection against the virus, including nearly everyone aged over 70 and already over 80% of people aged between 65 and 69.

Although delighted with our progress to date, we're determined to ensure that we don't leave anyone behind. Our Vaccination Inequality Programme is focusing specifically on supporting population groups at risk of low Covid-19 vaccine uptake. We're working closely with our partners across Herefordshire and Worcestershire to look at data on the uptake so far and checking whether those who have not taken up their invitation have done this due to barriers to access or other concerns that we can address.

For more information about the Covid-19 Vaccination Programme in Herefordshire and Worcestershire visit https://herefordshireandworcestershireccg.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccine.

