

18th January 2021

NHS England and NHS Improvement – Midlands
Trish Thompson
Director of Primary Care and Public Health Commissioning
Anglesey House
Wheelhouse Road
Rugeley
Staffordshire
WS15 1UL

Dear colleagues,

Re: NHS workers covid vaccination update

First of all I want to thank you so much for everything that you are doing to support the delivery of patient care during these extremely challenging times and we absolutely are committed to ensuring that you all have access to covid vaccinations in line with the commitments made to vaccinate Health and Social Care Workers.

We have provided by STP area, details of numbers for all our contractors and we have asked systems to submit to us their plans for delivering this ambitious programme. We received these back, at the end of last week, and we are meeting with them to walk these through plans w/c 18/01/21. We are working very closely with CCGs and the STP systems on their plans for enabling pharmacy, optometry and dental contractors to have access vaccination sites and have set up a group to have oversight of this work across all NHS staff and in the next week will be able to share with you a roll-out plan of these services.

Can we please ask for your co-operation with this roll out plan, as we have heard of experiences where contractors have been invited to attend specific sites, only for this information to be shared with other contractors across a much wider geographical area, which has the impact of destabilising provision of those existing sites and is therefore counter-productive to the delivery of vaccinations to your staff, whom we all want to get vaccinated as quickly as possible and also to the population we serve.

We are aware that there have been circumstances where contractors have legitimately arrived at vaccination sites, only to be turned away. We hope that the recently circulated 'essential worker letter' will help reduce the risk of this, but if you are unfortunate to have this experience, please contact the team through our usual generic email addresses and provide all the specific details regarding your experiences and in which location.

Community pharmacy sites across the Region have, as of last week, started to deliver vaccinations and we are sharing local pharmacy, optometry and dental phone numbers, for these sites so that where they have capacity, they will be able to offer this to you in a managed way.

Once again thank you for all your support.

Kind regards

Trish



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