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# Coronavirus (COVID-19) update: First Minister's statement - 19 January 2021

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Statement given by the First Minister to the Scottish Parliament on Tuesday 19 January 2021.

 **This document is part of a collection**

Presiding Officer

I want to update Parliament on Cabinet's review of the current lockdown restrictions which took place earlier today.

I will report on some cautious grounds for optimism, I'm pleased to say, but also set out why it is vital - in order to protect the NHS and save lives - to stick with these restrictions for a further period.

I will set out what that means for the timing of getting children back to school – which, of course, remains a priority for all of us.

And, finally, I will touch on other aspects of our response to COVID - including control of borders, the further expansion of testing, and the progress of the vaccination programme.

That number will increase progressively from here on and – assuming we receive the supplies we expect to do – we are on track to be vaccinating 400,000 people a week by the end of February.

Now the figures I am about to give - to share a sense of progress so far - are estimates based on management information.

Official detailed statistics will continue to be published on a weekly basis - in addition to the overall figure we publish daily.

However, as of today, I can report that more than 90% of care home residents - the top priority group - have now received their first dose of vaccine.

Indeed, a number of health boards have now given the first dose of vaccine to 100% of their care home residents.

In addition, more than 70% of care home staff have had their first dose.

And more than 70% of all frontline health and care workers have also received the first dose.

We made a deliberate decision - in line with JCVI advice - to focus firstly on elderly care home residents, because we know they have the greatest vulnerability to becoming ill and dying from this virus and we have very painfully seen that in reality over recent months.

Consequently, making sure this group benefits from the protection of the vaccine as quickly as possible is likely to have the biggest and most immediate impact on saving lives.

However, vaccinating in care homes - for obvious reasons - is more time consuming and labour intensive than doing so in the community, and this is why overall figures are at this stage lower than in England, where more over-80s generally but a lower proportion of care home residents have so far received the vaccine.

However, our pace of progress in the over-80s group is also now picking up.

We estimate that between 15% and 20% have already had the first dose and we are on track for all over-80s - and everyone else in JCVI groups 1 & 2 - to have been offered the first dose by the start of February.

By the middle of February, we expect to have completed first doses for all over-70s, and for all those who are deemed to be clinically extremely vulnerable.

People in these groups will start to receive appointments for February in the coming days.

We then aim to complete first doses for everyone who is over 65 by the start of March, and to give first doses to everyone on the JCVI priority list by early May.

That means Presiding Officer that in around three months' time, around 3 million people in total will have received at least the first dose of vaccine - this is, of course, the majority of the adult