

# **UPDATE:**

# **COVID-19**

# **Response**

# **Strategy**

**Department of Health**

**April 2021**

- 5.3 The Northern Ireland model for vaccine deployment has been designed to be pragmatic, agile and flexible. The rate of progress will be dependent on the availability of vaccines, supplied as part of UK-wide arrangements.
- 5.4 The Northern Ireland vaccination programme is progressing involving seven regional vaccination centres and GP practices, since the 29 March a large regional vaccination centre was opened at the SSE Arena and 348 Community Pharmacy stores started to offer vaccination to eligible cohorts. All 9 priority groups as recommended by JCVI as part of Phase 1 have now been reached. In addition priority group 10, which forms part of JCVI's phase 2 is now also eligible to receive the vaccine.
- 5.5 The vaccination rollout is supported by a dedicated management system which provides online booking facilities, pre-attendance eligibility checks, captures required information to reduce time in the clinics, updates medical records with vaccination information and provides statistical information to inform the programme.
- 5.6 The vaccines are received via Public Health England before being stored in a distribution hub. From there, the vaccine is delivered, as required, to Trust pharmacy sites, GP practice or Community Pharmacy store.
- 5.7 The initial focus of the programme in NI had been the JCVI number 1 priority group (care home residents and staff) followed by those in group 2 (Health and Social Care Workers and the over 80s) before moving to the other eligible groups in February and March 2021.
- 5.8 By 25 January 2021, 100% of the 483 care homes in Northern Ireland had been visited to receive their first dose, while by early March all Care Homes had been fully vaccinated with two doses. District Nursing teams have continued to visit any residents who were unwell or absent during the vaccination visits by the Trust mobile teams. Uptake rates in the over 80s and over 70s is in the high nineties while the uptake rates in the over 60s and is close to 90%. As the vaccine management system comes on line it will be able to produce more accurate uptake figures and allow any pockets of lower uptake to be identified and corrective action taken.
- 5.9 The vaccination programme will continue to be expanded as vaccine supplies increase. In the coming months every adult will be offered a vaccine.

**At 14 April 2021:**

**1,081,565 vaccines  
administered**

**844,284 first doses**

**237,281 second doses**