

## QEH vaccination programme – an update

**From:** Sharon Clifton <[sharon.clifton@West-Norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.clifton@West-Norfolk.gov.uk)>

**Sent:** Tuesday, January 5, 2021 4:03 pm

**To:** Cllr Stuart Dark; Lorraine Gore; Cllr Brian Long

**Subject:** Update on vaccinations from QEH

Understandably, there is a keen interest within our local community about our COVID vaccination programme. In response to various questions that have arisen in the media and on social media we thought it would be helpful and timely to share an update and to provide reassurance about how we are approaching the programme.

Since we launched our vaccination programme at QEH six days ago, we have vaccinated over 2,100 patients over 80, care home workers, ambulance staff and our own staff. This is fantastic news for everyone, and takes us one step closer to ensuring we are all protected and become immune from this dangerous virus which has so tragically affected and taken the lives of so many over the last year.

In line with national Government policy and consistent with other hospitals across the NHS, the vast majority of vaccinations administered in this first and initial phase are being prioritised for those 80 years of age and over, and care home workers. We are working with GP surgeries in the Coastal West Norfolk area to arrange the appointments for over 80s, and this partnership working is going well.

We are also offering patients over 80 who come in to our hospital for appointments and as emergencies the vaccine, where appropriate. Any unfilled appointment slots are being used to vaccinate QEH staff, initially prioritising those considered to be at a higher risk of serious illness from COVID-19, BAME staff and other frontline line.

We have been asked why some staff who are not in the high risk groups have had their jabs, which is understandable. We have capacity to vaccinate 450 people a day; however, in recent days over the holiday period we have had some unfilled slots, despite extensive communication. To avoid wasting precious vaccine, we offered these unfilled slots to our wider workforce. The last thing we want us any vaccine going to waste.

Ordinarily and for the time being, we are vaccinating over 300 patients over 80 per day, with the remaining vaccinations for care home workers/staff, ambulance staff and our own staff.

As we heard last night in the announcement which informed the country we were heading back into national lockdown, the vaccination programme is absolutely key in the response to COVID-19. We are grateful to our team of vaccinators who are therefore working 7 days a week to support our programme and ensure as many patients and staff receive the vaccine as possible, whilst adhering to the clear national guidance.

If you have any questions about the vaccination programme, visit

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/?priority-taxonomy=774cee22-d896-44c1-a611-e3109c8eae> for the latest national guidance

**Laura Skaife-Knight**  
Deputy CEO

Sharon Clifton Communications Manager 01553 616711