

Update on what the NHS in Norfolk and Waveney is doing to respond to coronavirus (9 December 2020)

COVID-19 vaccinations begin in Norfolk and Waveney

The NHS in Norfolk and Waveney has begun vaccinating care home workers and members of the public who are 80 and over.

The Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) and the James Paget University Hospitals (JPUH) kicked-off the vaccination programme on Wednesday, 9 December 2020. Vaccinations are by appointment only.

The two hospitals are the first sites in Norfolk and Waveney to receive the vaccine. They are among 50 hospitals across the country beginning vaccinations this week.

Initial supplies of the vaccine are limited and being given to those most at risk from COVID-19 including a small number for at risk frontline NHS staff.

People over the age of 80 will be contacted by their GP practice. The vaccine is provided free on the NHS and is given via an injection in the upper arm, with a second 'booster' vaccination around three to four weeks later. All people due to be vaccinated will be asked to fill in a health screening questionnaire and consent form.

Vaccinating all adults will be a marathon not a sprint. The first community vaccination sites will begin operating later in the month.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme is the largest in the history of the NHS and has been planned extensively by the NHS so it can be rolled out as quickly and safely as possible. Vaccinating all adults will be a marathon not a sprint.

The first community vaccination sites will begin operating later this month and, over the coming months, people will be invited when it's their turn to be vaccinated. Do not ask your GP or hospital, please wait for your invite.

In the meantime, the best thing we can all do to protect ourselves, our families and our communities is to wash hands, cover face, and make space.



Got questions about the COVID-19 vaccination programme?

Public Health England has published a series of guides for people who will receive the COVID-19 vaccine first. Take a look at the guides if you are in one of the following groups, or share them with family members and friends who are, as well as any community groups or networks you belong to:

- [COVID-19 vaccination: guide for older adults](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination: guide for healthcare workers](#)
- [COVID-19 vaccination: a guide for social care staff](#)

Public Health England has also produced [information](#) for women of childbearing age, those currently pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding about the COVID-19 vaccination. Again, please share this with anyone you know who would find it helpful.

We've also set-up a page with the answers to some frequently asked questions, which we're updating regularly – take a look: www.norfolkandwaveneyccg.nhs.uk/covid-19-vaccination-programme.

'Your NHS Needs You': People across Norfolk and Waveney urged to join Covid Vaccine Team

The NHS in Norfolk and Waveney is still on the hunt for thousands of vaccinators and support staff to help protect millions of people from COVID-19 quickly when a safe and effective vaccine becomes available.

By bolstering its workforce the NHS will be able to offer the public potentially life-saving protection from coronavirus in a range of locations, focusing on the most at-risk groups first, whilst at the same time keeping A&Es, elective surgery, GPs and community services going.

Roles we are seeking to fill across Norfolk and Waveney include:

- Clinical Operational Supervisors
- Registered Practitioners
- Immunisers
- Front of house receptionists
- Post-vaccination Observation Support Volunteers

Parliament recently changed the law to allow a wider group of people to undertake training to deliver vaccines e.g. paramedics, physios, pharmacists, dental professionals, and healthcare scientists. In all cases, appropriate training, supervision and PPE will be provided to ensure the safety of staff, volunteers and our patients.

Vaccinators and supporting staff and volunteers will potentially work across a range of different vaccine facilities, with local plans to be finalised when the details of approved vaccines are available and a decision on which groups should be the first to get it has been made by the Government.

If you're interested in opportunities available across Norfolk and Waveney, we'd love to hear from you. You can find out more by:

- visiting NHS Jobs at <https://bit.ly/2IXLDwI> where you can also apply on line, or
- contacting our HR Team via ccs.hrteam@nhs.net.

Getting help from your GP practice

The way people access their GP practice has changed to ensure patients get the best possible care safely and quickly. We only want people to attend the practice when they need to, in order to keep patients and staff safe from coronavirus.

This new animation explains how people can access their GP practice, including how to get in contact, the different ways care may be delivered, and how face-to-face appointments have changed.

[Watch the video](#) to find out how general practice has adapted to ensure patients receive the care they need as safely as possible.



To protect you from coronavirus, your GP practice will try to help you remotely and then see you face-to-face if needed.



Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership confirmed as Integrated Care System

NHS England (NHSE) has confirmed the Norfolk and Waveney Health and Care Partnership (NWHCP) will become an Integrated Care System (ICS).

This is the culmination of many years of effort to build partnership working across the NHS, local authorities, the third sector and patient groups.

Patricia Hewitt, chair of NWHCP, said: "This is great news for the health and social care of people living in Norfolk and Waveney. By harnessing the collective power of all these different agencies working together and striving for services that will be ever more co-ordinated, patients and the public will receive better care, support and ultimately better value for the taxpayer funds spent."

An Integrated Care System brings greater collaboration to all parts of the health and care system including GPs, hospitals, community care and social care, as well as physical and mental health services, county and district councils and the voluntary sector. People will find it easier to access services, see more joined up care delivery and staff should find it easier to work with colleagues from other organisations.

They enable health and care organisations to more effectively address their residents' biggest health challenges, many exacerbated by COVID-19. By co-operating in their response to COVID-19, hospitals and primary care in Norfolk and Waveney have transformed the patient experience. Many more GP and out-patient appointments have been delivered via video link with patients.

Some tests previously done in hospital are now carried out by GPs saving patients journeys and reducing the risk to patients and staff of transmitting the disease.

Melanie Craig, Chief Executive Officer of NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) and the Executive Lead for the NWHCP, said: "I'm delighted that Sir Simon Stevens, the CEO of NHS England has confirmed our move to become an ICS. It has taken a collective effort from the leaders and staff of our local authorities, NHS organisations, the voluntary sector and patient representatives to reach this point. Working together we will be better able to tackle health inequality, join up the care for those with multiple conditions, improve support for people with life-long illness and support children to lead healthy lives."

The NWHCP has been making other changes to transform the patient experience. It is working to better integrate health and social care services to support elderly patients at risk of crisis who might otherwise have to be admitted to hospital. At the same time, it is developing better processes for patient discharge and support back at home or in the community for older people when they leave hospital.

Seventeen Primary Care Networks (PCNs) have been created bringing groups of GP practices together with the aim of improving care and health for the population at a 'neighbourhood' level, to help people stay safe and well at home and make primary care more resilient.

Primary Care Networks have the potential to benefit patients by offering improved access to an extended range of services, recruitment of additional health staff, and by helping to integrate primary care with wider health and community services.

The three acute trusts in Norfolk and Waveney, James Paget University Hospitals (JPUH), Norfolk and Norwich University Hospital (NNUH) and Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn (QEHL), recently announced that they have agreed to operate single clinical teams across all three sites to deliver urology services, whilst JPUH and NNUH run the Norfolk and Waveney Ear, Nose and Throat service.

These are just a few of the tangible changes made possible by partnership working and which will be further developed by NWHCP when it becomes an ICS.

Mental health support available for the public

- It's important that we look after our mental wellbeing during this time – for tips and advice visit www.everymindmatters.co.uk.
- If you are worried about your own mental health and wellbeing call First Response, a free 24/7 helpline offering immediate support, on 0808 196 3494.
- 11 to 25 year olds in Norfolk and Waveney can get support and online counselling via www.Kooth.com. The service provides support or advice on any topic, including managing your feelings during the pandemic.
- JustOneNorfolk has a wealth of information and links to support the health and wellbeing of your family: www.justonenorfolk.nhs.uk.

NHS
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First Response
Call: 0808 196 3494
(Freephone)

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