

## NHS England and NHS Improvement Board meetings held in common

**Paper Title:** COVID-19 vaccination deployment

**Agenda item:** 3 (Public session)

**Report by:** Emily Lawson, SRO COVID-19 Vaccine Deployment Programme

**Paper type:** For note

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### Organisation Objective:

NHS Mandate from Government	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Statutory item	<input type="checkbox"/>
NHS Long Term Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>	Governance	<input type="checkbox"/>
NHS People Plan	<input type="checkbox"/>		

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### Executive summary:

- Sets out the current progress of the vaccination programme, including progress in younger adults
- Updates on recent action to accelerate second doses to tackle the Delta variant

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### Action required:

The Boards are asked to note the update and commitment to offer a vaccine to all adults by 19 July – two weeks earlier than planned

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1. Since Margaret Keenan became the first person in the world to be vaccinated in early December 2020, the NHS Covid-19 vaccine deployment effort has been progressing at pace. Over 36 million people across England have now received their first dose of the vaccine - over three quarters of the adult population - and well over 26 million people have had both doses.
  2. On 13 May, the programme began booking people in their thirties (Cohort 11). So far 71% of people in this cohort have received at least one dose. On 8 June, exactly 6 months after the NHS gave its first Covid-19 vaccination, the programme began inviting people 25-29 for their first dose. More than one million bookings were made through the NHS website that day - a record high. A total of 1,082,596 first and second dose slots were snapped up across the day online and by phone, around 45,000 an hour on average and more than 750 every minute, over the full 24 hours. To date 41% of people in this group have received a first dose. This is an encouraging indication that enthusiasm remains strong and people in their 20s are coming forward in significant numbers to protect themselves and their loved ones. As of Friday 18 June, booking is now open to all adults aged 18 and above.

## Second dose acceleration

3. Our successful vaccination programme is clearly weakening the link between cases and hospitalisations, with the latest evidence showing that two doses provide effective protection against the Delta variant. On the 15 May, on the advice of the Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and directed by Government, the NHS started contacting people in Cohorts 1 - 9 asking them to bring forward their second dose of the vaccine to counter the spread of the Delta (B.1.617.2) variant, which was first found in India.
4. On 14 June, the Government announced further second dose acceleration for to all over 40s who had their first dose by mid-May (committing to offer a second dose by 19 July) All adults aged 18 and over will now be offered a first dose by 19 July, 2 weeks earlier than planned.
5. In addition, in areas of the country with higher levels of reported cases such as Bolton, Blackburn and Darwen, targeted new activity to accelerate vaccine uptake amongst currently eligible cohorts is underway, including:
  - Operating additional vaccine buses.
  - NHS professionals supporting rapid deployment of additional workforce, with St John's Ambulance providing volunteers on a roving basis to target local businesses reaching out to those unable to take time off work.
  - Developing additional pop-up sites.
  - Extending opening hours at vaccination centres.

## Planning for a potential booster campaign

6. Looking forward, the programme is planning for a potential booster campaign which could be required later this year in autumn or winter. It is not currently known for how long people who receive a COVID-19 vaccine will be protected. This is because, as is the case with many vaccines, the protection they confer may weaken over time. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) will issue advice in due course.
7. As we await the Committee's advice, we are making preparations to be ready for the Autumn and planning on the basis that we may need to run COVID-19 and seasonal flu vaccination campaigns in parallel. A clinical study is currently underway investigating the safety and efficacy of receiving both the flu and COVID vaccine in the same appointment (co-administration one in each arm). In any scenario, we are making plans to ensure high uptake of both vaccines. It is critical that we take all steps to help ensure our population and our NHS are protected from COVID and winter related illnesses. Plans are being created in collaboration with systems to make the most of availability and ensure balance with other healthcare delivery priorities. Demands on workforce are a particular focus.