

T: 0300 244 4000
E: scottish.ministers@gov.scot

Presiding Officer
The Scottish Parliament

By Email.

16 December 2020

Dear Ken,

COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

I am writing to provide you with further information following the commencement of the COVID-19 vaccination programme on 8th December.

As you will know, we have started vaccinating residents in care homes for older people and their carers and will continue this part of the programme throughout the rest of this month. Depending on supply of the Pfizer vaccine, we are hopeful of completion of the majority of the first doses of vaccine in the course of the next few weeks. We will of course continue with our programme of vaccinating frontline NHS and social care staff through the Board vaccination centres. All territorial Health Boards are planning to vaccinate over the festive period, with the exception of the public holidays, and subject to vaccine availability.

Presently we have 130,650 doses available for delivery in Scotland. You will recall that we are required by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) to hold back 50% of the doses we receive to guarantee that those who have received their first dose will be able to receive their second dose.

As promised, the Scottish Government has published data for the period 8 December to 13 December today at 12 noon and this information is available here: [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): daily data for Scotland - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-daily-data-for-scotland-2020-12-13/pages/12-13-2020.aspx). Thereafter COVID-19 vaccination figures will be published on a weekly basis from 23 December by Public Health Scotland as part of their weekly report. This will provide the most accurate and up to date information available. This information will be available here: [COVID-19 statistical report 9 December 2020 - Data & intelligence from PHS \(isdscotland.org\)](https://www.isdscotland.org/Information-Systems/COVID-19-statistical-reports/9-december-2020).

I am aware of issues around the transportation of the Pfizer BioNTech vaccine to some of our smaller island communities. Yesterday, we received confirmation from the MHRA that the undiluted vaccine can be transported by boat, at 2-8°C, in a suitable vaccine transporter, after it has been 'packed down' into smaller quantities. There is no stability data from Pfizer for helicopter or plane transportation which means that neither of these options are available. The MHRA confirmation will now enable us to get the vaccine to these

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communities and local Health Boards are liaising with us on the practicalities and timescales for this. I expect them to ensure local residents are informed as soon as possible and that local MSPs are updated.

The Cabinet Secretary will provide a further update to Parliament next Wednesday, 23rd December, including our national and local plans for the start of 2021 with the usual caveat around these of vaccine supply. We are hopeful that the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine will receive MHRA approval in the coming weeks alongside that developed by Moderna. Both of these will also require updated JCVI advice and together, this will inform our future plans. As reported last week, due to two NHS workers in England who had received the Pfizer vaccine that led to an anaphylactoid reaction, messaging was sent out to Local Health Boards and Immunisation Coordinators immediately, followed by a CMO letter. The published training resources were updated to reflect additional MHRA guidance. This was available from 10 December. The escalation pathway for adverse clinical events is now very clear and is working well as tested by the escalation of a mild Lothian vaccine reaction last week.

In addition, as the First Minister confirmed yesterday, we are providing information on Power of Attorney for Adults with Incapacity that can be used to ensure access to vaccines. This information is available here: [Section 47 certificate of incapacity - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](http://www.gov.scot/section-47-certificate-of-incapacity)

As you know the freephone Scottish COVID-19 Vaccination Helpline on 0800 030 8013 has been live since 8 December. The helpline will answer general enquiries from the public, and will be able to transfer callers to their local Board, and will operate 7 days a week from 8am to 8pm.

For the most up to date information on the COVID-19 vaccine, please visit the NHS Inform website (www.nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine).

I hope you find this information useful but as always please don't hesitate to raise any specific issues you have with me.

Kind regards,

JOE FITZPATRICK

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Pfizer vaccine delivered so far to each Board

Health Board	Volume Delivered Packs (doses)
AYRSHIRE & ARRAN	6 (5,850)
BORDERS	3 (2,925)
DUMFRIES & GALLOWAY	3 (2,925)
FIFE	4 (3,900)
FORTH VALLEY	5 (4,875)
GRAMPIAN	9 (8,775)
GREATER GLASGOW & CLYDE	15 (14,625)
HIGHLAND	5 (4,875)
LANARKSHIRE	11 (10,725)
LOTHIAN	13 (12,675)
NATIONAL SERVICES SCOTLAND - SNBTS	0
GJNH	0
ORKNEY	1 (975)
SHETLAND	1 (975)
TAYSIDE	7 (6,825)
WESTERN ISLES	1 (975)
TOTAL	84 (81,900)

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