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Mr Lewis Macdonald MSP
Convener
Health and Sport Committee

By email.

24 March 2021

Dear Lewis,

I am writing to provide you with a copy of the update on the COVID-19 vaccine deployment plan which we published in January of this year. This was published today and is available online here: <https://www.gov.scot/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-deployment-plan-update-march-2021/> This update reflects on how far we have come since the vaccination programme started, and the next steps ahead.

In particular, the update recognises the significant and continued effort of all those involved in the vaccination programme who are working tirelessly to ensure it is a success. That includes the valuable support of unpaid volunteers who continue to play an important role in the programme, and the faith, third sector and community groups who are working alongside us and with Health Boards to ensure that no one who is eligible for a vaccine is left behind.

The update notes that, as at 7:30 am on 24 March 2021, we have now given a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine to just under half (49.5%) of the adult population in Scotland and a second dose to 5.5% of the adult population. It also confirms the excellent uptake of the vaccine by the initial JCVI priority groups so far, with latest progress as at 24 March 2021 showing we have now provided first dose vaccinations for:

- 98% of people aged 80 and over
- 100% of people aged 75 to 79
- 100% of people aged 70 to 74
- 98% of people aged 65 to 69
- 93% of people aged 60 to 64
- 63% of people aged 55 to 59
- 41% of people aged 50 to 54

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The update also provides important further detail on the work that we are doing together with Health Boards and stakeholders to ensure that the vaccination programme is inclusive, and that no one who is eligible for a COVID-19 vaccine is left behind.

We have also taken the opportunity to set out the interim JCVI advice for prioritisation in phase 2 of the vaccination programme, and our intention along with the other UK nations to follow the recommended approach for phase 2 of the vaccine roll out, subject to the final advice given by the JCVI.

The document also confirms that notwithstanding the current supply issues, we still expect to offer a first dose to all those in the initial JCVI priority groups 1-9 by the middle of April, and subject to supply, we expect to have offered a first dose to all adults by the end of July.

I hope you find this update helpful and the information it contains continues to keep you informed. Please contact cabsechs@gov.scot should you have any concerns.

JEANE FREEMAN

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