CTM UHB Covid-19 Vaccination Update

The Numbers

189,715 vaccines have been given by Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB. That total number can be split into 152,979 people have received their first dose and 36,736 people have received their second dose.

*This is the number recorded on the Welsh Immunisation System (WIS). The actual number will be higher as records are updated on WIS. Figure correct 00.01AM 16.03.2021.*
Headlines

- It is our aim to vaccinate everyone in priority groups 5 to 9**, approximately 120,000 people in Cwm Taf Morgannwg, with at least their first dose. As of today that total is **47,431 vaccines.**
• This week our community vaccination centres will be having record numbers coming through their doors each day as they begin to use both vaccines, the Pfizer vaccine and the Oxford vaccine. Up until now, our CVCs have only used the Pfizer vaccine. The status update of each priority group (below) outlines which vaccines people are likely to receive.

• There have been concerns about the safety of the Oxford vaccine after many EU countries temporarily suspended its use. The World Health Organisation says there is no indication that the vaccine causes blood clots. There is a full statement from Public Health Wales below.

• On Friday, we announced in a joint decision with Merthyr Tydfil CBC that we would not be opening a community vaccination centre in Aberfan. You can read more on our website here: Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB and Merthyr Tydfil CBC will not open a vaccination centre in Aberfan - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. Please be assured this decision has no impact on the speed of our vaccination programme, and will not change the timeframe of vaccination for anyone living in the Merthyr Tydfil CBC area.

• Our self-referral form for unpaid carers remains live on our website. This follows the JCVI guidance and Welsh Government advice that unpaid carers should be included in priority group 6. You can read the guidance in full here: COVID-19 vaccination of unpaid carers [HTML] | GOV.WALES. Here at Cwm Taf Morgannwg, our unpaid carers will be vaccinated at one of our community vaccination centres. If you think you are eligible for the vaccine, please fill in the form on our website here: COVID-19 Vaccine Information - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board. It will ask you a number of eligibility questions and if you meet the criteria, you will be sent an appointment letter within three weeks of filling in the form. Please be reassured if you are not eligible at this stage, that we will be offering a vaccine to priority groups 7, 8 and 9 by mid-April, so it may be you are in one of those groups through age, or you will be offered a vaccine by the end of July with all eligible adults in CTM UHB.

**Public Health Wales’ summary of groups 1 to 9 is below:**

The AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine has been put on temporary hold in several countries. It is important to note it is a precautionary move.

In Wales, our advice is that people should still go and get their COVID-19 vaccine when invited to do so. And we’re pleased to see people are continuing to come forward for their vaccine.

We saw a record day for vaccinations over the weekend. With more than 40,000 vaccines reported as administered in Saturday’s data. That’s more than 1% of the Welsh population vaccinated in one day.

The independent regulator in the UK (MHRA) is reviewing reports but given the large number of doses administered, and the frequency at which blood clots can occur naturally, the evidence available does not suggest the vaccine is the cause.

More than 11 million doses of the COVID-19 Vaccine AstraZeneca have now been administered across the UK, and the number of blood clots reported after having the vaccine is not greater than the number that would have occurred naturally in the vaccinated population.

The European Medicines Agency (EMA) has an ongoing investigation but currently remains of the view that the benefits of the AstraZeneca vaccine in preventing COVID-19, with its associated risk of hospitalisation and death, outweigh the risks of side effects.
The World Health Organisation has urged countries to continue administering doses of the Oxford/AstraZeneca coronavirus vaccine, saying there are no indications it is linked to the blood clots that have been reported in recent days.

In Wales, the Welsh Government, Public Health Wales and NHS Wales are working with other agencies to monitor vaccine safety and will keep this issue under close review. People’s safety will always come first.

Current situation for priority groups 1-9

We wanted to update you on our current status with each priority group. Some of the priority groups we have divided into a, b and c. This is not how we are vaccinating, but purely to illustrate that different members of the same group might be going to a different location for their vaccine or contacted in a slightly different way and may also be receiving a different vaccine. This should not be interpreted as one ‘sub-group’ is more important than another; this is purely being used to give you the most detailed current status possible.

- **Priority Group 1 - Residents and staff in a care home for older adults.**
  - Both residents and staff in this group were all offered/or had their first dose by the end of January. Our mobile vaccination teams are now back revisiting the care homes across Cwm Taf Morgannwg to offer the second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. Our teams have now fully vaccinated half of residents in our care homes and half of all staff.

- **Priority Group 2a – Aged 80 and over.**
  - This group had their first vaccine – the Oxford/AstraZeneca – through their GP practice. They will be contacted shortly by their surgery to come in for their second dose. We will provide more detail when this group is asked to come back in. Please do not worry if you see other groups (who received Pfizer) already having their second dose. The latest research shows for the Oxford vaccine, the level of protection increases the longer the time between dose 1 and dose 2. However, dose 2 needs to be administered within 12 weeks, so for people who had their first dose at the start of January for example, they will soon be called to have dose two at their practice towards the end of this month/the start of April.

- **Priority Group 2b – Frontline health workers.**
  - This group received their first vaccination in one of our hospital vaccination centres. Second doses are now underway using the Pfizer vaccine.

- **Priority Group 2c – Frontline social care workers.**
  - Social care workers received their first doses of the Pfizer vaccine in one of our community vaccination centres. Social care workers have done or
will do receive a new appointment letter inviting them into a CVC for dose 2.

- **Priority Group 3 – Aged 75 and over.**
  - This group had their first vaccine – the Oxford/AstraZeneca – through their GP practice. They will be contacted again by their surgery to come in for their second dose. We will provide more detail when this group is asked to come back in. The latest research shows for the Oxford vaccine, the level of protection increases the longer the time between dose 1 and dose 2. However, dose 2 needs to be administered within 12 weeks, so for people who had their first dose at the start of January for example, they will soon be called to have dose two at their practice towards the end of this month/the start of April.

- **Priority Group 4a – Aged 70 and over.**
  - This group received their first doses of the Pfizer vaccine in one of our community vaccination centres. Due to vaccine supply, we are now in the position to bring their second dose appointments forward. They have done or will do receive a new appointment letter inviting them into a CVC for dose 2.

- **Priority Group 4b - Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (those who received shielding letters).**
  - This group had their first vaccine – the Oxford/AstraZeneca – through their GP practice. They will be contacted again by their surgery to come in for their second dose. We will provide more detail when this group is asked to come back in. The latest research shows for the Oxford vaccine, the level of protection increases the longer the time between dose 1 and dose 2. However, dose 2 needs to be administered within 12 weeks, so for people who had their first dose at the start of January for example, they will soon be called to have dose two at their practice towards the end of this month/the start of April.

- **Priority Group 5 – Aged 65 and over.**
  - This group is currently being vaccinated by their GPs with their first dose, receiving the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. Some GPs are still contacting this group and making appointments, so please do not worry if you have not heard yet, as it will be very soon and we thank you for your patience.

- **Priority Group 6a - 16 – 64 year olds with underlying health conditions**
  - GPs are contacting this group now and inviting them in for a vaccine at their surgery. Please note this group ‘a’ does not include unpaid carers. Patients within this group are given the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. GPs are still contacting this group and making appointments, so please do not worry if you have not heard yet, as it will be very soon, and we thank for your patience. Please also try not to worry if you hear of other areas or other GP practices who have finished vaccinating this group, it
purely depends on the number of patients each individual practice has in this cohort. **Following the latest JCVI guidance this group also includes individuals with a learning disability or severe mental illness. Some of these patients may be residents in a care home and will be visited by our mobile vaccination teams. The care home will be contacted direct for this to be arranged.

- **Priority Group 6b – Unpaid carers.**
  - An online self-referral form is live on our website for unpaid carers to check their eligibility for vaccine and make themselves known to us. Please follow this link to complete the form: [COVID-19 Vaccine Information - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board](#). Please note, if you meet the eligibility criteria, you will be sent an appointment letter within three weeks of completing the form. Your appointment will be at one of our community vaccination centres and you will be given the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. You do not need to contact your GP for an appointment. If you are an unpaid carer but do not meet the eligibility, then please be aware it may be that you are shortly offered the vaccine through age in being in priority groups 7, 8 or 9. Furthermore, all eligible adults will be offered the vaccine by the end of July in Cwm Taf Morgannwg.

- **Priority Group 7 – Aged 60 and over.**
  - Letters are being sent out to this priority group offering them an appointment at one of our community vaccination centres. This group will receive the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. You do not need to contact your GP for an appointment, as GPs are not vaccinating this group. It is our aim to have offered everyone in this group a vaccine by mid-April.

- **Priority Group 8 – Aged 55 and over.**
  - Letters are being sent out to the majority of this priority group offering them an appointment at one of our community vaccination centres. Further appointment letters will be sent to the remaining cohort in this group shortly. This group will receive the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. You do not need to contact your GP for an appointment, as GPs are not vaccinating this group. It is our aim to have offered everyone in this group a vaccine by mid-April.

- **Priority Group 9 – Aged 50 and over.**
  - Letters will be sent out soon to this priority group offering them an appointment at one of our community vaccination centres. This group will receive the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine. You do not need to contact your GP for an appointment, as GPs are not vaccinating this group. It is our aim to have offered everyone in this group a vaccine by mid-April.
Table 1 – The number of total vaccines given within each Local Authority

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Cumulative total of vaccines given up to: 00:01AM Monday, March 15</th>
<th>Bridgend CBC</th>
<th>Rhondda Cynon Taff CBC</th>
<th>Merthyr Tydfil CBC</th>
<th>Other CBC (This figure includes Cwm Taf Morgannwg staff who live outside of the three Local Authorities)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Number of first and second doses</td>
<td>55,886 vaccines</td>
<td>94,203 vaccines</td>
<td>23,907 vaccines</td>
<td>15,719 vaccines</td>
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For more information

We have set up a dedicated vaccination advice line to try to assist you with your enquiries.

It is now open 7 days a week.

Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 5:00pm, and Saturday and Sunday, 9:00am to 4:30pm

The number is 01685 726464.

Public Health Wales website contains useful information and FAQs. Click here https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) outline their advice in detail on priority groups here: Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation: advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination, 30 December 2020 - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)

Further detailed information around this advice, and in particular, detail on the underlying health conditions for group six eligibility can be found in the Green Book – Immunisation against Infectious Disease. You can read more by following this link: Immunisation against infectious disease - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)