

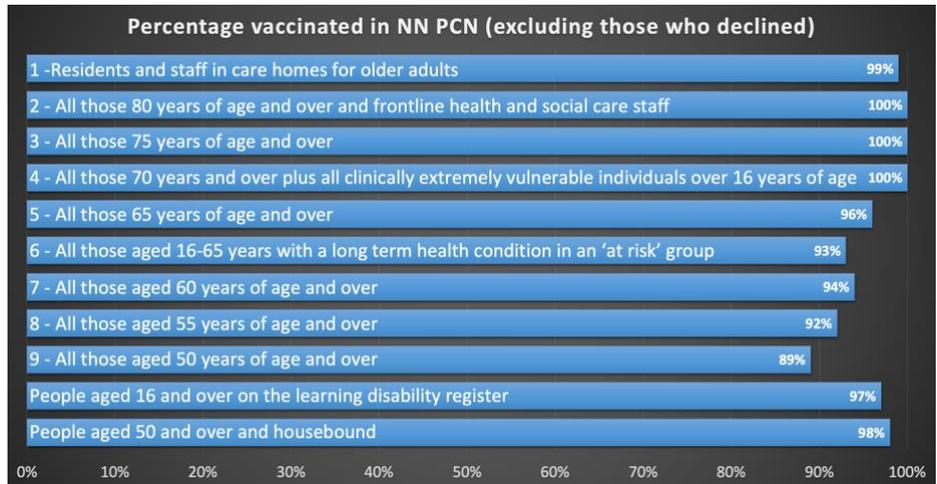


# Newcastle North Primary Care Network (NN-PCN) Newsletter

Issue 4 – May 2021

## COVID-19 Vaccination Update

The middle of April saw the official completion of Phase 1 of the National Vaccination Programme with groups 1-9 being invited to receive a COVID-19 vaccine. We remain hugely indebted to the Kildgrove Lads 'n' Dads for allowing us to use their Birchenwood site, to our volunteer stewards and marshals, to our own practice and PCN staff and last but by no means least to our patients. We have all braved some horrible weather over the winter months but hopefully spring now brings us better weather and some hope for the future. As you can see the uptake of the vaccination programme has been fantastic. Our focus now turns to the under 50's whilst also ensuring that everyone we have vaccinated to date gets a timely second dose. Please make sure we have your up-to-date contact details so that we can contact you. Total number of vaccinations given - 15,808, 1st dose 11,056, 2nd dose 4,752.




### Restoring General Practice

From this month, we hope to start to return to 'business as usual'! You will be contacted for your long-term condition reviews, though some of these may still have elements that are remote, and we would actively encourage uptake of screening such as smears, breast screening and bowel screening. We will continue to use our Saturday 'extended hours' for 2nd dose vaccinations until 5th June then these will return to their original format to give extra capacity at the weekends. We have also teamed up with our neighbouring Newcastle PCN's to continue to deliver sessions at Bradwell in the evenings and at weekends.



### Some areas of focus for the PCN in 2021 - 2022

There are a number of areas that the PCN intend to focus on in the coming months which include: -

- Increasing on-line access to all practice patients
- Improving uptake of Learning Disabilities (LD) Annual Health checks and ensuring that these are of high quality.
- Making sure that we consider 'reasonable adjustments' for our LD patients.
- Reviewing the quality of our suspected cancer referrals and maximising the uptake of cancer screening programmes. This will be a piece of quality improvement work running throughout the year.
- Prescribing safety initiatives and also looking at cost effective prescribing and use of 'over the counter' medication.
- Ensuring high uptake of flu vaccination for all adults aged 50 and over.
- Supporting our excellent PCN care home team to deliver the 'enhancing care in care homes' specification.



We would like to say a massive thank-you to all the volunteers who have, and continue to, support all the vaccination sessions at Birchenwood and more recently at the individual surgeries. The volunteers have collectively given over 2,000 hours of their time, sometimes in terrible weather conditions, to ensure that patients are safe, and the practice staff can focus on administering the vaccinations. If you would like to volunteer, register by [clicking here](#).

To all our wonderful volunteers,  
a massive




### COVID-19 VACCINE FACT CHECK

- The COVID-19 vaccine will always be available free of charge.
- The NHS will never ask you to share bank details to confirm your identity.

### Our wider PCN team

**Dietitian** - We have been joined in March by Carrie Eckersley as our PCN dietitian. Carrie will be offering appointments for dietetic advice for weight management and Irritable bowel syndrome as well as supporting our care home team and clinical pharmacists in the management of oral nutritional supplements. We also are very fortunate to have some ongoing input from Wendy Hollands who has been supporting families of infants with cow's milk protein allergy.

**Physiotherapy** - Paul, our FCP Physiotherapist, has now increased his hours and has sessions based at each of the surgeries. He can accept referrals for a range of musculoskeletal problems and can be booked directly through reception. He can offer face to face or telephone/ video consultations.

**Health & Wellbeing** - We are looking to increase our social prescribing team by appointing a 'Health and Wellbeing Coach' to work alongside Margaret Hurley our social prescriber and are working with the local community healthcare trust to appoint a PCN Mental Health Practitioner in the near future.

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