



Department for  
Business, Energy  
& Industrial Strategy



Department  
of Health &  
Social Care

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Minister for Business and Industry  
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11 May 2021

Dear Jack,

Thank you for your correspondence of 23 April, on behalf of your constituents, regarding vaccination against COVID-19.

I understand your constituents' concerns and I am grateful to you for taking the time to raise them with me.

Based on the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI)'s expert advice, it is our joint clinical advice that delivery plans should prioritise delivering first vaccine doses to as many people on the JCVI Phase 1 priority list in the shortest possible timeframe. This will allow the administration of second doses to be completed over the longer timeframes in line with conditions set out by the independent regulator, the the independent Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and advice from the JCVI. This will maximise the impact of the vaccine programme in its primary aims of reducing mortality and hospitalisations and protecting the NHS and equivalent health services.

The NHS has been planning meticulously to ensure that people receive their second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine within 12 weeks. The process of providing second doses is progressing according to when people received the first dose, which means the top priority groups that received their first dose of the vaccine at the start of the programme will be the first to receive their second dose. Over the coming weeks this will therefore be mainly people aged 80 and over, and care home residents and staff.

Where an individual has not received their second dose within the recommended time window, the clinical advice confirms that the second dose should be scheduled as soon as is practicable. Anyone who is approaching the end of their 12-week window for their second dose should contact their GP, who will be able to advise on local provision.

Regarding vaccine supply, clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) and GPs were written to on 2 March 2021 and given advance notification about vaccine delivery. They were notified that substantial increases in the amount of vaccine delivered from the week commencing 8 March to the week commencing 29 March. This letter is available to view at: [www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/03/C1166-Vaccination-plans-for-weeks-of-8-March-to-29-March-2021.pdf](http://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/03/C1166-Vaccination-plans-for-weeks-of-8-March-to-29-March-2021.pdf).

CCGs and Primary Care Network (PCN) led vaccination sites were written to on 17 March 2021 as an update to the previous letter, informing them that the Government Vaccines Task Force has advised there would be a reduction in weekly supply available from manufacturers beginning 29 March. This is available to view at:

[www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/03/C1204-COVID-19-vaccination-deployment-next-steps-on-uptake-and-supply-letter.pdf](http://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/03/C1204-COVID-19-vaccination-deployment-next-steps-on-uptake-and-supply-letter.pdf).

NHS England and Improvement now has a more reliable forecast of inbound vaccine supply from the Vaccine Task Force, and the supply chain has matured. This means a fixed delivery schedule for PCNs is now in place, starting 26 April 2021. Sites were informed of this on 16 April.

Thank you again for taking the time to write and I hope that this reply is helpful.

Yours sincerely.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N. Zahawi', written in a cursive style.

**NADHIM ZAHAWI MP**  
Minister for COVID Vaccine Deployment  
Minister for Business and Industry