



KEY PRINCIPLES FOR CORONAVIRUS VACCINE – 11th November 2020

The recent announcements about the roll out of a [COVID-19 vaccine programme](#) and the efficacy of the Pfizer vaccine mean that practices are now faced with a decision about whether to elect to participate in the Enhanced Service to deliver part of the vaccine programme. Faced with a short notice decision without the full facts, many practices have turned to DDLMC for advice.

This is a constantly evolving situation and we will be sending a thorough analysis when more details are ironed out. In the meantime, we would like to reassure practices regarding the huge amount of work already underway to support mass COVID-19 vaccination in Derbyshire and inform you of the key principles we will be employing in ensuring the wealth of expertise in general practices is appropriately used.

BACKGROUND

GP practices have a long history of delivering successful vaccination programmes, but the sheer scale and urgency of this programme meant that central planning was initially focussed on a model that used other providers to deliver COVID-19 Vaccines. Lately, NHSEI have realised that including GP practices in this programme is critical to its success, but this must be in conjunction with other parts of the system.

In Derbyshire, we are ahead of many areas as general practice has been appropriately represented at the COVID-19 Vaccine Working Group which has been developing contingency plans for the roll out. This joined up approach will give us the best chance of success for the people of Derbyshire.

We are acutely aware of the pressures that all practice staff have been working under and the mental strain that the pandemic is already placing on all of our fantastic practice teams. This vaccination programme may add to those worries and we all need to be mindful of the balance of looking after our staff welfare while playing our part in delivering what is arguably the most important vaccine programme for a generation.

KEY PRINCIPLES:

- Provision of safe, high-quality general practice care, for patients who need to be seen remains a priority
- General practice is integral to the delivery of the COVID-19 vaccination DES but it is **part of the** response, support from the whole system is required to deliver this on behalf of Derbyshire's patients
- No practice will be left financially vulnerable as a consequence of the DES
- Delivery will be flexible in order to allow for anticipated increased activity in general practice as we go in to winter
- GP teams need clarity on which work can be deprioritised in order to release staff to vaccinate patients
- There will be no further negative impact on general practice teams' wellbeing as a result of delivery

