

Q&A log with Relatives of Care Home Residents

Question: Are we going to be denied the 2nd dose of the Pfizer vaccine?

Answer:

- No, you will still be given the 2nd dose, however you may need to wait slightly longer.
- There has been new guidance which states that if a second dose is given within 3 and 12 weeks of the first dose it will give the same amount of immunity. This guidance is for both the Pfizer and the AZ vaccine (4-12 weeks). By giving more people the first dose earlier this will protect the most people at once, especially considering the current rates of COVID-19 in the community.
- The hub/location where you were given the first dose will be able to advise you when you can get the second dose.

Question: Do the two vaccines have different efficacies?

Answer:

- Yes, however due to logistics both vaccines are appropriate for different purposes.
- Pfizer vaccine is 95% but AZ vaccine one is cited as 65-80% (avg 70%). Unfortunately due to the logistics of bringing the Pfizer vaccine to the care homes the AZ vaccine is a better option. Moving the Pfizer vaccine from the central store to the Care Homes may reduce its efficacy as it needs to be kept stable at a very cold temperature. Therefore it is a better alternative to use the AZ vaccine for care home residents.

Question: Will people get two doses of different vaccines?

Answer:

- No.
- The advise is you should not mix the two vaccines
- You should get a 2nd vaccine of the same type you had of the first dose. There will be enough vaccines to do this.

Question: When should care home residents receive the vaccine?

Answer:

- Care home residents and staff are in priority group 1. We will hopefully receive the first 400 AZ vaccines on Friday and start vaccinating on Monday.

Question: When residents have the first dose of the vaccine will restrictions be lifted?

Answer:

- No. Residents will need the 2nd dose to get the high level of immunity.
- Even after this point we may need to keep restrictions to some extent, we do not know how long immunity will last.

Question: Do you have the Patient Specific Directive form for the AZ vaccine?

Answer:

- Yes, it arrived Monday 4th January but needs to be agreed by SWL CCG and so we will not have it physically until later in the week.
- We are currently signing off the Governance for it and then we will share with Care Homes.
- Care Homes will need to get the GP to sign off the form, particularly for the those places where the Sutton Care Home Support Team will be administering the vaccine. The form will need to be signed by a GP to allow each vaccinator to give out the vaccine. A GP and nurse may go to Care Homes together to ensure the vaccine is given in the most efficient way.

Question: When will those staff administering vaccines be vaccinated ? Are they classed as priority group one or two?

Answer:

- Staff who are vaccinating are in priority group two and the care home residents are in priority group one.
- When there are vaccines leftover, there is a list of people who can come to the hubs at short notice to be vaccinated. This means some of the staff giving out vaccines have had the vaccine. For those staff who have not had the vaccine we will complete a risk assessment.

Question: Will the Doctors carry EpiPens when they visit care homes to deliver vaccinations?

Answer:

- They will carry adrenaline not EpiPens. If there is an anaphylactic shock usually adrenaline will be enough but we also will call 999 just in case
- We will not bring out oxygen
- We may carry defibrillators
- Allergic reactions are very rare

Question: Can staff who are waiting for the vaccine be vaccinated at the same time as the resident?

Answer:

- We can't give all the staff the vaccine due to supply issues at the moment but we can give staff any spare vaccines. The AZ vaccine comes in packs of 8, so if we have used 6 of a pack and all residents have been vaccinated we could vaccinate 2 additional staff.
- We have raised the supply issue with the NHSE.

Question: When will we find out when the care homes will receive the vaccine?

Answer:

- We will inform you later on the week commencing the 4th January as to when your care home will be vaccinated (it will be a provisional time table).

Question: If someone is allergic to penicillin will they have the vaccine?

Answer: Yes, because the vaccine does not have penicillin in it.

Question: Is there a clear plan for the second vaccination?

Answer:

- The second AZ vaccine will be given between 11- 12 weeks after the first vaccine. We will start providing the second vaccine after the first vaccine is complete.
- We are hoping to get larger supplies in the coming weeks and therefore we can ramp up how quickly we are able to give out the vaccinations.

Temporary residents will be vaccinated. If they are no longer in the home they may need to arrange a second vaccine at home. Relatives need to keep a record of one they get the first one.

Please see the [Sutton Care Hub](#) and [Sutton Care Hub COVID-19 vaccine page](#) for the latest information and updates.