

TyneHealth News

North Tyneside GP Federation e-Bulletin

31st March 2021
SPRING EDITION



The COVID-19 Vaccination Programme Update

The rollout of the COVID-19 Vaccination Programme in North Tyneside continues to be a huge success with more than 85,000 vaccines delivered across the three Local Vaccination Services in the borough.

All four Primary Care Networks are making excellent progress delivering both 1st and 2nd doses of vaccine to the most vulnerable in North Tyneside. They are working down the cohorts 1 - 9, in the order advised by the JCVI; ensuring everyone who is eligible for a vaccine and hasn't had one already, is offered one locally.

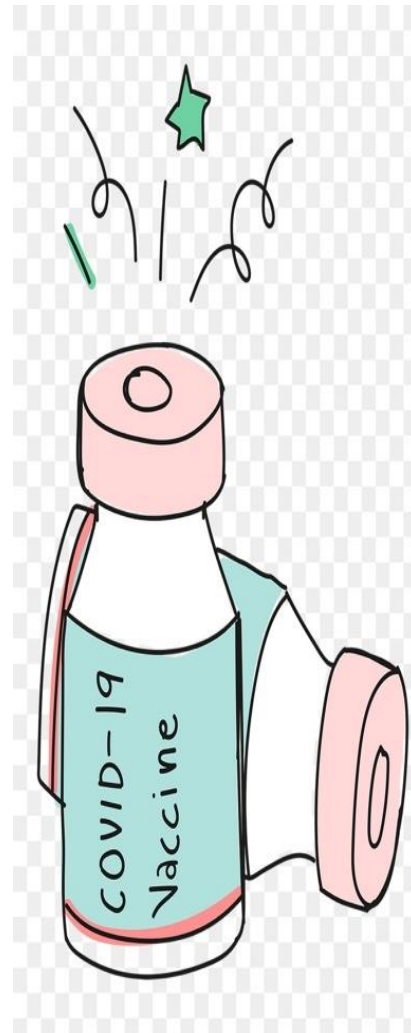
The speed, flexibility and responsiveness shown by General Practice to the national call out for COVID-19 vaccination has been a remarkable achievement. The ability of Primary Care to respond in this way has been down to the sheer hard work of all our community teams across all four Primary Care Networks representing the 26 GP Practices in the borough. This along with the teamwork and support given in the delivery of the vaccination programme

from North Tyneside CCG, TyneHealth GP Federation, our local Hospital Partners, North Tyneside Council and the Voluntary and Community Sector in North Tyneside as well as all the amazing volunteers coordinated by VODA, have made this possible.

The national NHS vaccine booking service is running in tandem with our local GP-led services, but is separately organised. At the time of writing all three local services in the borough are making excellent progress down the cohorts offering 1st doses of vaccine to the most vulnerable in our communities from priority groups 1 - 9, as well as ensuring 2nd doses are delivered on time. Vaccine clinics are continually uploaded on the local booking systems as soon as vaccine delivery is confirmed to all sites.

The Government has given assurances that all 2nd doses will be given on time despite a slow-down in supply forecast to last from the 29th March for 4 weeks.

We will update further about the North Tyneside mass vaccination site opening and pharmacy-led services coming soon in the borough as we know more.



Inside this Issue:

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YOUR VACCINE STORIES :

Collaborating with VODA and the Community Health Champions throughout the vaccination programme we have sought to capture what getting the vaccine has meant to both those delivering and receiving it.

If you would like to share your vaccine story through any medium from a short quote to poetry, art, photos, videos, music or more, please follow us @TyneHealth and @ChampionsNT on Twitter and add #MyVaccineStoryNT to your post to get involved and help us document a range of voices from across Primary Care and our community, or send your stories to Dr Eleanor Holmes on eleanor.holmes1@nhs.net

TYNEHEALTH COMMUNITY SERVICES DEVELOPMENT UPDATE

Ear Irrigation

TyneHealth currently have three Practice Nurses carrying out Ear Irrigation in Extended Access (Susan Whitecross, Wendy Bell and Emma Doughty)

When booking appointments please ensure the patient has been using ear drops or oil for a minimum of ten days prior to the appointment.

15 minutes per ear are needed for this service (for both ears a double appointment will need to be booked)

NEW Cervical Screening Service

From April 2021 TyneHealth will be offering dedicated cervical screening clinics on evenings and weekends across all our Extended Access hub locations.

This is part of a national initiative to ensure that women who are due

screening do not face extended delays due to the pandemic. It is estimated since the lockdown in March 2020 around 3 million fewer people have been screened via the bowel, breast or cervical cancer screening programmes in the UK than expected under normal

circumstances. We will be asking GP Practices for support in identifying and encouraging patients to book in to this new service.

Information on the clinics and how to book into these will be released soon on our [website](#).

Extended Access Service News

The Extended Access Service has continued to run throughout the majority of the COVID-19 pandemic.

GP appointments continue to be conducted by telephone consultations in the first instance with the option for the clinician working to assess the patient and invite them in

to the Extended Access Hub site to be seen. We ask GP and Practices to please inform patients of this possibility when booking in, as some patients have been unable to travel to the site their appointment has been booked into. Nursing and healthcare appointments are continuing as normal.

Patients can be booked into Extended Access Service appointments through their GP Practice or directly by the patient via our appointment line 0191 486 2195 during service hours. Easter opening hours are available on our [website](#)

If any staff require access to our SystemOne module please email tynehealth.rota@nhs.net

COVID-19 Assessment Hub Closure

The TyneHealth COVID-19 Assessment Hub in North Shields closed its doors on Monday 22nd March.

We would like to thank all the clinicians, staff,

medical students and GP Practices that have supported the hub throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Their hard work and dedication has been greatly appreciated by

all of the patients seen. Patients who would have been referred will now need to be seen in practice in a dedicated COVID-19 room, or via a home visit.

TYNEHEALTH BOARD NEWS

Welcome to Dr Simon Young our newest Board Member and GP Partner at Northumberland Park Medical Group

We are looking forward to having Simon's perspective and input on our board as a voice for local GPs to help shape service development in our community.

TyneHealth also seek further GPs and Practice Managers from across North Tyneside, as well as representation from the Local Authority and Voluntary and Community Sector and other allied health professionals.

If you are interested in becoming a board member please contact us on tynehealth.office@nhs.net

SPOTLIGHT ON COMMUNITY HEALTH CHAMPIONS

VODA's Community Health Champions are harnessing the power of North Tyneside residents to play a vital role in sharing up to date, trusted health messages with people they know and care about during the COVID-19 pandemic and vaccination programme.

VODA's Community Health Champion lead Alice Holliday has been providing the network of champions with clear and easily communicable health messages backed by Public Health teams in the form of infographics, animations and easy to read posters. Alice can also provide support

to North Tyneside residents via their GP who can refer on to her for the following:

- **Signposting information**
e.g. vaccine information in different languages or for people with learning difficulties
- **Listening to and reassuring people who might be anxious**
e.g. about what to expect at a vaccination site, how the sites are kept COVID-19 secure etc.
- **Answering any practical questions about covid or the vaccination programme**
e.g. I've received two invites for vaccination, what do I do? How can I find my NHS number? Can I access help with transport to local vaccine sites?

This list is not exhaustive but GPs are reminded that patients with specific clinical concerns are not appropriate to refer on to Alice, as she does not have a medical background.

The following contact details can be given to patients that might benefit from Alice's help and support: **0191 6432626**
alice.holliday@voda.org.uk
or visit the VODA website [here](#)

Our next edition will feature Health, Wellbeing & Information Worker for Ethnically Diverse Communities **Safiah Fardin.**



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Please send your vaccine story to eleanor.holmes1@nhs.net

or connect with us on Social Media using #MyVaccineStoryNT