

Oxfordshire

NHS & Local Authorities Stakeholder Briefing

23 April 2021

Oxfordshire health and local authority partners are working together to respond to the pandemic and help the county restart, recover and renew after COVID-19.

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Outbreak Management

On 12 April, the country took the second major step on the roadmap out of lockdown, with shops, hairdressers, leisure facilities and outdoor hospitality venues reopening their doors.

Oxfordshire has started this next phase of lockdown easing in good shape as the weekly COVID-19 rate in the county currently stands at 21.1 per 100,000 residents – a level we have not seen since the end of September. However, as the county adjusts to reduced restrictions, residents are being urged to play it safe in order to avoid transmission of the virus and keep Oxfordshire open.

Ansaf Azhar, Oxfordshire County Council's Director of Public Health, said: "COVID is a respiratory virus – the closer you are to people, the more the chance you have of contracting COVID. If you keep your distance and wear a mask, it helps stop that process occurring. Being outdoors also drastically reduces the risk. We need to play it safe if we are to keep Oxfordshire open and consolidate the progress we've seen in recent weeks."

Importance of regular testing

Alongside the rollout of the vaccine, regular testing forms an essential part of the government's roadmap plan.

One in three people with COVID-19 do not experience any symptoms and may be spreading the virus without knowing. Rapid testing detects cases quickly, meaning positive cases can isolate immediately and prevent the spread of infection.

It is strongly advised that everyone gets tested regularly – even those who have had the vaccine. Regular testing will help identify positive cases quickly in workplaces and the community and stop the spread of the virus.

In Oxfordshire, a range of options are available for people to access free rapid testing as conveniently as possible:

- Community testing at council-run symptom-free testing sites in Banbury, Carterton, Oxford and Wantage, which are open Monday to Saturday – booking is not required
- Collection of home test kits from any local testing site
- Collection of home test kits from pharmacies across the county
- A home ordering service so that people can order LFD tests online and have them delivered to their home
- Workplace testing programmes, on-site or at home
- Secondary school and college testing on-site or through home test kits provided



CORONAVIRUS
Everyone can now access symptom-free testing

Find out more at [oxfordshire.gov.uk/covidtest](https://www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/covidtest)



For further information, visit www.oxfordshire.gov.uk/covidtest. A map showing locations where you can get tested or pick up home test kits is available at <https://maps.test-and-trace.nhs.uk>

Vaccination programme update

The summary below provides the position at 19 April 2021:

Covid-19: Vaccinations in numbers across Oxfordshire



Over 440,000 vaccinations delivered

Second doses now underway



95% take up (c80% second doses delivered)

in over 80's, 75-79 and 70-74 year old population



More than 90%

of our 60-69 and 50-59 year old population vaccinated



More than 93% take up

in our Clinically Extremely Vulnerable population



95% take up (c80% second doses delivered)

of our Care Home residents 80% Care Home staff



Hands Face Space

Remain important rules to follow even if you have been vaccinated, as you may still be able to spread COVID to others



April key focus on second doses

Patients receiving second doses at 11 and 12 weeks



Vaccination centres

- 1 Large vaccination centre
- 2 Hospital hubs
- 21 GP-led hubs
- 3 Live pharmacy sites 5 more pending



Vaccine programme delivery

In line with the Government target priority groups 1 – 9 were offered a vaccination by 12 April



Book your vaccination

In line with the national vaccination programme those aged 45 and over are being invited to attend for vaccination at GP led sites, the Kassam and participating Pharmacies

For more advice

www.oxfordshireccg.nhs.uk

Based on data from NIMS, up to 19.04.2021

Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West Integrated Care System

The COVID-19 vaccination programme hit the significant milestone last week with 1 million people across the Buckinghamshire, Oxfordshire and Berkshire West (BOB) Integrated Care System having had at least one jab since December.

This is an amazing achievement and more than 440,000 of these vaccinations have been delivered in Oxfordshire. A huge thank you goes to all those involved in delivering this programme – staff and volunteers.

The national campaign stresses how the COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective – it provides the best protection against coronavirus. The first dose will give good protection from 3-4 weeks after having it. The second dose gives longer lasting protection and it is important that all attend appointments for second jabs.

The vaccination programme has opened for those in priority group 10, so anyone over the age of 45 is now eligible for a vaccine, in addition to all those covered by priority groups 1-9.

When they become eligible for a vaccine, anyone who is under 30 years of age will be offered an alternative to the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine.

COVID-19 vaccinations in the community

Two more pop-up clinics have been held in Oxfordshire, this time at the Christian Life Centre on Cowley Road, Oxford, to encourage members of the African Caribbean community to get vaccinated. These took place on 20 and 21 April and were arranged in collaboration with the Pastors from all the local churches.

These clinics follow the two clinics held at Madina Mosque and the Central Oxford Mosque on 7 and 8

April. All of the clinics have been open to anyone in the cohorts 1-9 still needing their first vaccination.

Following the success of these, plans are underway to deliver more vaccinations in community settings including at the mosque in Banbury as well as through outreach work to reach the boating and traveller communities in Oxfordshire.

OUH COVID e-Book tells the stories of a year like no other

Today (Friday 23 April) sees the launch of *Stories from the COVID pandemic #OneTeamOneOUH* – an e-Book which tells the story of Oxford University Hospital's (OUH) response to COVID-19.

[It is available to read online](#) and has been made possible thanks to the generous support of Oxford Hospitals Charity.

Dr Bruno Holthof, Chief Executive Officer of OUH, says: "The COVID-19 pandemic has been a time of unprecedented challenges for all of us, both professionally and personally, and one of the ways in which we can make sense of these experiences is by telling our stories, to share how we feel, and to talk about what we did as individuals and in our teams.



"And so the idea for this e-Book was born as an opportunity for everyone to share their reflections on our OneTeamOneOUH response to COVID-19 – we invited all staff to submit their contributions for inclusion in order to truly reflect the experiences of our people."

Stories from the COVID pandemic

#OneTeamOneOUH includes a strong focus on the Trust's unique partnership with the University of Oxford and the ground-breaking COVID-19 research which has taken place here in Oxford.

It also profiles teams which the public and even some staff colleagues may not be aware of because they are not always visible – as they work 'behind the front line' – and highlights the support of Oxford Hospitals Charity, medical and nursing students, the on-site catering and retail partners, and many others in our hospitals and in the communities which we serve.

Supporting Muslim staff during Ramadan

With the start of Ramadan last week, Muslim colleagues face the additional challenge of fasting while carrying out their health and care roles.

The NHS has a diverse workforce of whom approximately 3.3% (46,000) are Muslim and so it is important that line managers and staff colleagues are aware of key advice for staff who may be observing fasting during the month of Ramadan.

The NHS Muslim Network, the British Islamic Medical Association (BIMA) and the Muslim Doctors Association (MDA) have shared some tips for [supporting NHS staff and colleagues throughout the month of Ramadan](#).

Imam Monawar Hussain, the Muslim Chaplain at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), has recorded [this message](#) wishing people Ramadan Mubarak and reassuring people that it is safe to get the COVID-19 vaccination while fasting. There is similar guidance from the [British Islamic Medical Association](#).

Human challenge trial launched to study immune response to COVID-19

Researchers at the University of Oxford have launched a human challenge trial to look at what kind of immune response can stop people from becoming re-infected with COVID-19.

The team is led by Professor Helen McShane, Director of the NIHR Oxford Biomedical Research

Centre (BRC) which is hosted by Oxford University Hospitals (OUH).

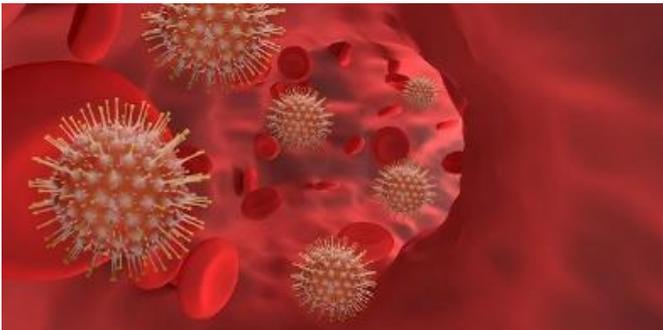
Their work also aims to find out how the immune system reacts to a second infection.

[More information is available on the OUH website](#) and there is also a video produced by the University of Oxford which explains more about the trial – [available to watch on YouTube](#).

Risk of rare blood clotting higher for COVID-19 than for vaccines

A new study has reported that the risk of the rare blood clotting known as cerebral venous thrombosis (CVT) following COVID-19 infection is around 100 times greater than normal, several times higher than it is for post-vaccination or following influenza.

The study was led by Professor Paul Harrison and Dr Maxime Taquet from Oxford Health's Biomedical Research Centre. Results must be interpreted cautiously since data are still accruing. Read more about how the study was conducted [here](#).



State-of-the-art robots to enhance Oxford cancer care

Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) has purchased two new surgical robots that will greatly enhance the treatment that can be offered to patients, especially those with cancer.

The da Vinci X and Xi surgical systems, distributed by the Oxford-based company Intuitive, will be located in the regional Cancer & Haematology Centre at the Churchill Hospital.

The systems allow surgeons to perform complex keyhole operations remotely with greater precision, leading to less blood loss, less post-operative pain,

a quicker recovery time, and a shorter stay in hospital.



Surgical Care Practitioner Prue Barry and Professor Chris Cunningham, Director of OUH's Surgery, Women's and Oncology Division, with the new daVinci Xi robot

Professor Chris Cunningham, Director of OUH's Surgery, Women's and Oncology Division, and a colorectal surgeon, says: "We are excited to receive these new systems, which will allow us to carry out keyhole procedures that were not previously possible, and to continue to deliver the best possible care for our patients."

[More information is available on the OUH website](#).

Ariel shortlisted for prestigious BAME Nurse of the Year award

Ariel Lanada, a senior nurse who chairs the Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) Staff Network at Oxford University Hospitals (OUH), is shortlisted for the BAME Nurse of the Year award in the National Health & Care BAME Awards which take place on 6 May.

Ariel, who is a Divisional Lead for Practice Development and Education at OUH, is also a leader of Oxford's sizeable Filipino community – he is Chairman of the Filipino Community of Oxford (FilCom Oxford).

NHS 111 First

People are continuing to be encouraged to contact NHS 111 first via [111 online](#) or telephone if they are thinking of attending an Emergency Department, Minor Injury or First Aid Unit. Not only does this mean you get the most appropriate care

for your needs, it also helps hospitals to maintain vital social distancing in their Emergency Departments.

As well as promoting this through the media and social media, the message is being advertised on digital screens at five of the main supermarkets in the county as well as on the backs of Oxfordshire buses.

NHS 111 is a national system that people should contact if they need clinical advice. If you need clinical advice but are not in a life-threatening emergency, you are asked to contact NHS 111 first, before attending your local Emergency Department (A&E). You will then be assessed and, if appropriate, booked into either a First Aid Unit, Minor Injury Unit or the John Radcliffe or Horton General Hospital Emergency Department for treatment.

However, if it would be more appropriate for you to receive clinical advice elsewhere, you will be advised on

- How to self-care if required
- Visiting your local pharmacy, dentist, optician, or your own GP for help

People should still call 999 and attend an Emergency Department if they are experiencing a medical emergency, but everyone else should contact NHS 111 first to receive the most appropriate, timely, and convenient treatment.

Work starts on psychiatric intensive care unit for young people at Warneford

Construction of a new eight-bed psychiatric intensive care unit (PICU) at the Warneford Hospital is now under way. The £4 million building, supported by NHS England/Improvement funding, will enable young people experiencing the most acutely disturbed phase of a serious mental disorder to receive specialist help closer to home.

Set to be built alongside the award-winning Highfield Adolescent Inpatient Unit on the Warneford site in Oxford, the facility will provide inpatient mental health care, assessment and

comprehensive treatments for young people across the Thames Valley region.



It is part of a new regional model for the delivery of specialised mental health care for children and young people, the Thames Valley CAMHS Tier 4 Provider Collaborative, which is being led by Oxford Health. Read more [here](#).

Diabetes team award nomination

Every year, diabetes causes 27,000 heart attacks and nearly 100,000 cases of heart failure in the UK. It also leads to 37,600 strokes in the UK annually.

Congratulations go to an Oxfordshire NHS diabetes team which has been shortlisted for a



Health Service Journal (HSJ) Value Award in the 'Diabetes Care Initiative of the Year' category.

The team developed a Diabetes Dashboard which presents information every month about diabetes care and health outcomes for the people in Oxfordshire living with diabetes. It presents data at county, Primary Care Network (PCN) and GP practice level, so providing regular insight into Oxfordshire diabetes population health.

The success of the Oxfordshire Dashboard and multi-disciplinary working can be seen in the National Diabetes Audit.

People with diabetes should have an annual check-up, which includes urine and blood tests, as well as an examination of their feet. This has improved in Oxfordshire between 2016 to 2020: the percentage of people with Type 2 diabetes having all their annual checks increased from 51.6% to 76.7% (this compares to a national increase from 53.9% to

54.3%); for people with Type 1 diabetes, this increased from 29.3% to 57% (nationally, from 37.3% to 40.8%).

The winners of the award will be announced in September. The shortlisted team includes senior clinicians and managers from:

- Oxford University Hospitals (OUH) NHS FT
- Oxford Health NHS FT
- Oxfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- South Central and West Commissioning Support Unit

Find out more [here](#).

All in the Mind Awards finalist

Mental health occupational therapist Richa Barreto has been selected as a finalist in BBC Radio 4 All in the Mind Awards, having been nominated by a patient.



Richa works as a care coordinator at Oxford Health NHS Foundation Trust in the South Older Adult Community Mental Health Team, based in Abingdon. In her role she supports patients, as well as their carers and family members, in their recovery and maintaining their wellbeing in the community. Read more [here](#).

Children, Education, Families

Primary school places for 2021/22

A total of 93.09% (6,409) of applications have been awarded their first choice for starting infant or primary school in Oxfordshire. Last year's figure was 90.6%, meaning a higher proportion of parents and children across the county have been offered their first choice of primary school for 2021/22.

Evaluating patient and public involvement

Julia Hamer-Hunt, patient co-chair of the Oxford Health Biomedical Research Centre's strategic patient and public involvement (PPI) group and Claire Murray, PPI Manager, have written a blog about the creation of an evaluation framework to measure PPI. It will be used to make the evaluation of PPI relevant and meaningful. Read the post [here](#).



Oxford Health Council of Governors elections 2021 – Statement of Candidates

There has been great interest in Oxford Health's Council of Governors elections 2021: 41 people have put themselves forward for the 18 vacancies in this year's elections.

To vote in the upcoming election in May, you must be a member of Oxford Health NHS FT. Find out how to become a member and read the Statement of Candidates [here](#).



A total of 98.86% (6,806) have been offered one of the four choices they listed on their application.



Community resilience

Nominations open for Oxfordshire's COVID-19 Heroes awards

Incoming High Sheriff for Oxfordshire, Imam Monawar Hussain, is inviting nominations to honour those who have played their part in the battle against COVID-19.



The awards will celebrate those we have most to thank as the county comes to terms with the last year. While there has been great suffering and sadness caused by the pandemic, there have been many tales of hope and heroism.

In his first act since becoming high sheriff for the county, Imam Hussain established the awards in order to help give people the recognition they deserved during the last twelve months.

Economy

Bids invited for UK Community Renewal Fund

Local organisations from the business, further education and voluntary and community sectors are being invited to bid for a share of the UK Community Renewal Fund. This new £220 million fund has been set up by the government to encourage economic growth and recovery from the pandemic.

To nominate someone for an award, email oxfordshire@highsheriffs.com for an application form.

Helping combat food waste

Sustainable food initiative Good Food Oxford has joined forces with the County Council, Replenish Oxfordshire and other organisations to encourage people to grow their own vegetables and fight food waste.

Around 40 community groups across Oxfordshire – from community gardens and allotments to Girlguiding and Scouts groups – are set to receive free packets of squash seeds along with growing instructions to run planting activities, seedling swaps and to grow their own edible squashes.

It is estimated that nearly 13 million pumpkins are thrown away uneaten in the country every Halloween. This initiative, which will see the vegetables ready to harvest in the autumn, aims to get people into the habit of eating pumpkins instead of just carving and binning them.



Oxfordshire County Council, in partnership with the city and district councils, is managing the application process for the UK Community Renewal Fund in the county and seeking bids from local organisations.

Interested organisations are recommended to look at the [prospectus](#) before starting work on a bid.

Successful bids will be for 2021/22 only and activity must end in March 2022. The deadline for applications is 5pm on Friday 28 May 2021. More

information can be found on [Oxfordshire County Council website](#).

Place, Transport, Infrastructure

Supporting hospitality businesses to reopen

Across Oxfordshire, the councils have been working hard to support businesses reopening as part of step 2 of the roadmap. This includes helping provide outside seating areas so that hospitality businesses can reopen.

In Oxford, temporary outdoor dining areas were opened last year – including in Cornmarket Street, St Michael's Street, Broad Street, Dawson Street, and Observatory Street.

Businesses in Turl Street, Ship Street and Park End Street, and on Cowley Road are now among the latest to explore introducing outdoor seating, and more are expected in the coming weeks.



And finally...

We hope this update is useful. Please email occq.media-team@nhs.net with any queries and we will endeavour to get back to you as soon as we can.