Dear George

I am responding to your request for information about the Trust’s vaccination plans.

Nationally 50 hospital hubs have been identified within the first tranche of hospitals to receive and administer the vaccine.  As your constituent, Ms Dalton, has noted, St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals was not one of those selected.  We are hopeful that we may receive some deliveries of the vaccine within the next few weeks.

In terms of which members of the public will receive the vaccine and when, the following priority order has been agreed at a national level as an initial starting point:

* Care home residents and staff
* Over 80 years old
* Clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) NHS staff

Primary care will be managing the majority of the first two categories, although there will be a mass vaccination site at St Helens rugby club which will be available for those groups of people as well, to ensure that there is adequate capacity to vaccinate all those who should receive it at this stage. This facility is the first and only mass vaccination site currently available in Cheshire and Merseyside and therefore, is not restricted to St Helens residents and will be made available to the wider population for the first two categories as listed above. All of this will be supported by a national booking system.  As the closest NHS provider, this facility will be run by this Trust.

The Trust plans to vaccinate the CEV staff within the hospital, and will also offer the vaccination to any people attending an appointment who fall into the first two categories. The same approach will be taken in each of the 50 hospital hub sites, including Liverpool University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Please let me know if you require any further information.

Best wishes

Ann Marr OBE

Chief Executive

St Helens & Knowsley Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust