



**NORTH LONDON PARTNERS**  
in health and care

---



# Covid-19 update

JHOSC meeting 29 January 2021



# Summary

- In January, the pressures on the health and care system in north central London have continued unabated, with covid-19 cases at their highest, and significant demand for hospital services.
- North Middlesex and Whittington Health have a very high proportion of Covid positive patients, while UCLH and Royal Free have greatly expanded their intensive care capacity
- On 8 January Sadiq Khan, the Mayor of London, declared a major incident in London underpinning the importance of working together across NCL to support health and care services
- This paper provides an update on the current situation in NCL including:
  - System pressures
  - Staffing and workforce
  - Hospital services
  - Communicating to local people
  - Covid-19 Vaccination programme



# System pressures

We have responded to this demand/challenges in the following ways:

- Acute and community providers have been working with huge flexibility to increase capacity for critical care beds, high dependency and acute units, and step-down facilities
- We have also seen exceptional support from the specialist providers in our system:
  - the Royal National Orthopaedic Hospital opening 64 beds to take covid-19 improving patients and 10 intensive care beds to relieve pressures on acute providers, and have two theatres running for cancer and other urgent surgeries
  - Over 250 Moorfields staff redeployed to provide care in other parts of our patch
  - Great Ormond Street Hospital has redeployed over 75 nurses, allied health professionals and doctors to support services across the system.
- We have increased our adult critical care bed capacity from 152 to 283 as of 11 January and are looking to increase further to 300.
- We have increased our general and acute hospital inpatient beds by 409, an increase of 19%.
- We are working to open an additional 36 community beds to help step-down Covid-19 patients
- We have secured support from the military with staffing in intensive care and logistic

# Staffing and workforce

- Staffing continues to be challenging as we have a larger than usual number of staff off sick, self-isolating or shielding, and we have opened additional beds
- We are very grateful to everyone working in our health and care system in NCL for their ongoing hard work and resilience in the face of continued challenges.
- We are particularly grateful to the NHS and social care staff who have cancelled annual leave, even over the festive period, and worked extra shifts to continue to meet patients' care needs.
- As a system, we have strong mutual aid arrangements in place to ensure the right staff are working in the right place at the right time. We have established a workforce hub to make best use of all the offers of help that we have received from doctors, pharmacists, therapists, retired workforce, and other paid and voluntary staff.
- We are using the NCL Volunteering Network to help match volunteers to roles which help to deliver priority programmes, such as the vaccination roll out.



# Health and care services

- We have been working hard to keep elective (planned) services running for as long as possible, but have had to take the difficult decision to stand down all but the most urgent elective care. All patients who are affected by this will be contacted directly by the relevant NHS trust.
- We are continuing to work closely together across the health and care system, including hospitals, community health services and adult social care. All providers are collaborating to ensure that while there are huge pressures on all parts of the NHS and social care, local people can continue to have confidence that high-quality care is there when they need it.
- Equally, if local people need urgent or emergency care, the NHS remains open for Covid and non-Covid patients.
- **We would be grateful for your support in communicating to local people and communities that if they have appointments scheduled and have not been advised of any changes, they should still attend.**



# Communicating to local people

We would be grateful for your support in communicating to local people and communities that

- If residents have appointments scheduled and have not been advised of any changes, then please still attend, or let us know if you cannot attend.
- If residents need urgent or emergency care, the NHS remains open for Covid and non-Covid patients.
- London Ambulance Service is very busy, and please only call 999 or use A&E for emergencies.
- We continue to encourage people to contact their GP or NHS 111 for urgent care advice
- Residents should continue to observe simple clear public health advice to stay at home, wash hands regularly, and where they must go outside, maintain social distancing.



# Covid Vaccination Programme

- Our programme to vaccinate as many vulnerable people as quickly as possible against covid-19 continues, following the national guidance on prioritisation determined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).
- We have already vaccinated more than 60,000 individuals in the highest priority groups, including care home residents and staff, people over 80, and health and care workforce.
- We have already visited nearly 60 care homes across north central London, and continue to undertake visits daily to protect this vulnerable, and the staff who care for them.
- Primary care colleagues are working to ensure priority groups are invited to take up the offer of vaccination as soon as possible, and our roll-out of new vaccination sites continues, with a significant number of additional facilities coming on stream across the whole of NCL from w/c 11 January.
- Residents will be contacted by the NHS to come forward for a vaccine as soon as possible, and do not need to contact their GP practice or other NHS provider to make this happen.



# Programme delivery in NCL



**Local vaccine services** – smaller scale sites provided by GPs and pharmacies within local communities.

**16 primary care network sites now live. pharmacies to come online in January.**



**Hospital hubs** – located within local hospitals will be clinics run by hospital staff administering vaccines primarily to inpatients, outpatients, NHS and care staff.

**Eight hospital sites live – with “buddying” arrangements to allow access for care staff and community and mental health providers.**



**Vaccination centres** – large scale sites convenient for transport networks that support high volumes in a fixed location for an extended period.

**Large vaccination centres proposed in each borough to go live through January**



**Roving models** – comprising vehicles that can deploy vaccinators, vaccine and supplies on an outreach basis, for those housebound or in care settings.

**Roving models live delivering in care homes, joint work between the primary care networks and community providers and local authorities.**