Thursday 7 January 2021

**Bowthorpe Medical Practice in Norwich and the Park Surgery in Great Yarmouth have today joined nine other GP practice sites across Norfolk and Waveney to begin vaccinating patients against Covid-19.**

From Friday 8 January, the GP sites will be acting as ‘primary care hubs’; vaccinating patients registered with their own practice as well as patients from other neighbouring practices.

Those who are most at risk from Covid-19 are being prioritised first; members of the public who are over 80 years-old, care home workers and a small number of ‘at risk’ frontline NHS staff.

GP practices work closely together with neighbouring practices in local groups called Primary Care Networks (PCNs).  Each PCN will have a designated vaccination site, providing a good geographical spread of vaccination locations across Norfolk and Waveney.

Bowthorpe Medical Practice and the Park Surgery join the following GP practice sites to begin vaccinations:

* Fakenham Medical Practice, Fakenham
* St James Medical Practice, King’s Lynn
* Lionwood Medical Practice, Norwich
* Falkland Surgery, Bradwell
* Swanton Morley Surgery, Swanton Morley
* Thetford Healthy Living Centre, Thetford
* Kirkley Mill Surgery, Lowestoft
* Cringleford Surgery, Cringleford
* St John’s Surgery, Terrington St John

More sites are set to go live in the coming days and weeks.

Dr Nick Morton, lead GP at the Trinity and Bowthorpe Medical Practice said: *“We are delighted to be delivering the vaccine to our patients and those of neighbouring GP surgeries across Norwich. This is the biggest vaccination programme the NHS has ever seen and will take some weeks and months, but it is amazing to be part of it and to be able to protect people from this deadly virus.”*

Dr Luke Gardner, Lead GP at The Park Surgery, said: *“We are overjoyed to be delivering the Vaccine to our patients in the Great Yarmouth and Northern villages area. All of our practices teams, support staff and wider agencies have worked incredibly hard to get the vaccinations up and running and we would like to say a massive thank you to them.”*

Dr Anoop Dhesi, GP and clinical chair of NHS Norfolk and Waveney Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), said: “*We want to thank our primary care and PCN staff who continue to work tirelessly to roll out the vaccine across Norfolk and Waveney. Feedback from both patients and staff has been extremely positive and we look forward to reaching more patients as additional vaccination sites go live in the coming days and weeks.”*

*“The vaccine is great news and will save many lives, but we need people to be patient. Please wait until you are contacted with an appointment for vaccination – don’t contact your surgery as they are already incredibly busy.”*

*“This virus hasn’t gone away. We need to protect ourselves and our loved ones, it’s so important that we all keep following national and local guidelines - as well as washing our hands, wearing face coverings and staying two metres apart.”*

**ENDS**

**\*\*\* Friday 8 January from 2pm \*\*\***

**\*\*\* Filming, photocall and interview opportunities available \*\*\***

**at Bowthorpe Health Centre, Norwich NR5 9HA**

**Please contact:**

NHS Norfolk and Waveney Communications Team

Email: nwccg.communications@nhs.net

Phone: 07867 136669