

**From the Chief Pharmaceutical Officer
Mrs Cathy Harrison**



BY EMAIL TO

**Community Pharmacy Contractors for onward
distribution to pharmacy staff**

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Dear Colleagues,

Vaccination of Community Pharmacy Staff and the Future Role of Community Pharmacies in the Vaccination Programme.

I am writing to advise that preparations are being finalised that will enable community pharmacy staff who provide healthcare services to receive a COVID-19 vaccination.

There are currently two arms to the Northern Ireland vaccination programme, one that is delivered by the HSC Trusts and one that is delivered by General Medical Practices. Community pharmacy staff will be vaccinated via the Trust-based programme using the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, which is currently delivering the vaccination to health and social care workers and care home residents.

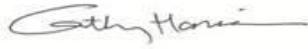
A digital booking platform has been established for the Trust-based program and community pharmacy staff will be able to book an appointment at a time and location that is convenient to them – this can be at any Trust vaccination site.

It is anticipated that community pharmacy staff should be able to book an appointment for the vaccination from the week commencing 18 January 2021. The coordinators of the vaccination programme have told me that further information will be provided and exact details of how you can book an appointment will be shared with you as soon as possible.

The COVID-19 vaccination programme will be rolled out over the coming weeks and months in line with JCVI recommendations. Initial supplies of vaccine have been limited however we expect that this position will improve over the coming weeks. I am confident in the ability of the community pharmacy network to support the wider rollout of the programme as more vaccine becomes available, and the Department is working with the HSC Board and CPNI to make preparations for community pharmacy participation in the delivery of the vaccination programme when this is possible.

Thank you for all that you have done and continue to do in the care of your patients and support for the health and social care service. I hope that this update provides some reassurance, stay safe.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Cathy Harrison
Chief Pharmaceutical Officer