

Dear South West Pharmacy, Optical and Dental Practices

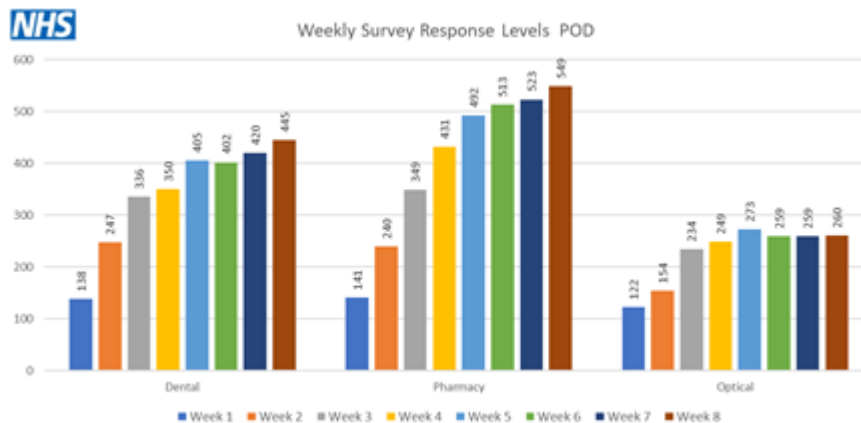
Thank you to the providers that responded to the survey on **Friday 26th March**, where we asked you to confirm the position regarding your staff accessing the vaccination programme. Initially we were going to run the survey for four weeks, however, there is still an indication that contractors still need to have staff vaccinated, so we will continue with the survey to help ensure that systems have enough vaccination in the system for our primary care staff.

This information is collected as part of a national survey of all health and social care workers in the JCVI cohort, to assess whether systems had provided access to the vaccination for these members of the primary care team. The system have carried a similar survey of all other organisations. Responses to the survey will inform whether or not systems need to provide additional capacity this week and in coming weeks.

NHSE and your system recognise it is important for you as employers and NHSE as commissioner of your service, to be confident that your staff in the priority cohort have been able to access a vaccination if they wish to.

Of the responses we received, we can see that in **Week 8 - 26 March 2021** Headlines as follows:

- 87% of Dental staff in the cohort vaccinated (Wk1 81%)(Wk2 87%)(Wk3 86%)(Wk4 85%)(Wk5 85%)(Wk6 86%)(Wk7 87%)
- 89% of Pharmacy Staff in the cohort vaccinated (Wk1 83%)(Wk2 85%)(Wk3 84%)(Wk4 85%)(Wk5 87%)(Wk6 88%)(Wk7 88%)
- 87% of Optom staff in the cohort vaccinated. (Week1 76%)(Wk2 91%)(Wk3 85%)(Wk4 85%)(Wk5 86%)(Wk6 86%)(Wk7 86%)



In the survey we also sought information on uptake of the vaccination in those staff most at risk: BAME and Clinically Extremely Vulnerable. From the responses received, the position across all three providers groups was:

- Of the cohort that are BAME, (85)% are vaccinated and 15% declined.
- Of the cohort that are CEV, 93% vaccinated and 7% declined.

Please continue to discuss the option of vaccination with all members of your team who have not been vaccinated. There have been recent media campaigns providing information about the vaccination programme, which may have addressed some of the rumours circulating in various social media outlets, which may lead to people reconsidering vaccination. The recent Prime Ministers Briefing also highlighted the importance of front line health care workers continuing to be offered the opportunity to be vaccinated.

From the data received so far - can we please remind you that we only need numbers of staff in fields requiring numbers, please ensure that your total headcount figures are equal to or higher than your total vaccinated and refused. It is important that the data we report is accurate. **If you confirmed, in a previous response, that 100% of your front line workers have been vaccinated you do not need to provide a 2nd response.**

We or your Local Representative Committee have sent you details of how your staff can access a vaccination, for you to share with the members of your team who are in the priority cohort (JCVI definition of cohorts 1-4 are being vaccinated currently). This will be re-circulated to you shortly.

Finally, it is important that we review uptake of the vaccination programme again at the end of this week – as it is a Bank holiday we are asking for responses by close of play Thursday this week. Please use [THIS LINK](#) , to resubmit the survey **by 17:00pm on Thursday 1st April 2021** If you are having difficulty with the link please copy and paste the below information into your web browser.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kp4VA8ZyI0umSq9Q55CtvydpHR-sbF5DhTBWtVubF7IUMVhIVThTsk1EQUhDSjVVRfZSRERYMksxTi4u>

We thank you in advance. If you have any queries regarding the survey, please do not hesitate to contact your Pharmacy or Optometry team on the email address below.

Kind Regards
South West Community Optical Team
Email:england.optometricsouthwest@nhs.net

NHS England and NHS Improvement

