News release

20 April 2021

**[NHS Board] asks 18–49-year olds to ‘Roll Up Your Sleeves’ for the COVID-19 vaccination**

People aged 18 to 49 are now being invited forward for the COVID-19 vaccine in [NHS Board], as the next phase of the vaccine programme gets underway.

The aim is for all adults in Scotland to be vaccinated by the end of July, depending on vaccine supply. Those aged 40-49 will be invited first, followed by those 30-39 and then 18-29.

Those under 30 will be offered Pfizer or Moderna vaccines in line with latest guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.

[insert name] of [NHS Board] said:

“We have made great progress in delivering the vaccine to over [insert number] people in [NHS Board] to date and I am hugely grateful to the vaccine delivery teams for how they have responded to this huge logistical challenge.

“You will be invited when it is your turn to get vaccinated so please be patient as we work through the age groups. When you are invited forward, please do get the vaccine if you are able to do so. You can get really ill with coronavirus at any age.

“The vaccine provides our best way out of the coronavirus pandemic and a return, in time, to the things we’ve all missed.”

Professor Emma Thomson of the University of Glasgow Virus Research, an expert in infectious diseases, who led work undertaken in Scotland to develop the COVID-19 vaccine, added:

“Each vaccine passes through a three-phase testing process, reviewed by independent regulatory and advisory bodies, to ensure it is effective and safe.

“Licensed COVID-19 vaccines have passed through the same rigorous tests as all other vaccines in tens of thousands of participants who have taken part in trials around the world, and we continue to monitor for side-effects even after licensing in the millions of people who have already received the vaccine.”

Those who have been vaccinated should continue to follow FACTS as it will take time to establish the impact of the vaccines on transmission of the virus.

For more information visit nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine or call the COVID-19 vaccination helpline on 0800 030 8013.

Ends

**For further information contact Smarts on 0141 222 2040 or email** **health@smarts.agency**