

Campaigners' concern over Covid-19 vaccinations

Reports of shortages of supply and logistical chaos in delivery batches of Covid-19 vaccine to GP surgeries in Oxfordshire have led local campaign group Keep Our NHS Public to call for changes.

The 12 January online meeting of Oxon KONP heard that:

- There are shortages of vaccine supply to GP surgeries
- Deliveries have been cancelled at short notice, disrupting vaccinating
- Surgeries reported they could deliver 6 to 10 times more vaccination doses than they are being supplied
- Some clinical staff in Oxford have received both doses of vaccine, some just one, but others in Banbury have received neither.
- Also in Banbury, one group of 4 GP surgeries has delivered both vaccine doses to patients, while smaller surgeries have not received any vaccine
- One local group of 11 volunteer vaccinators have been told they have to apply via a private company

One doctor said:

National vaccination hubs are not the answer. A reliable, greatly increased supply of vaccine to GPs and hospitals is.

It is very important to remember that protection does not kick in until up to three weeks after vaccination, and if you've been vaccinated you still need to distance, wear a mask, and wash hands as before.

Bill MacKeith, secretary of Oxon KONP said:

We are concerned to hear that the nearest national hub is Epsom Racecourse in Surrey, and that private companies are recruiting vaccinators. We have seen this government-imposed, centralised drive to privatisation throughout the pandemic.

Our local MPs and councillors must call for vaccination, like other health service provision, to be delivered locally by trusted practitioners.

Campaigners agreed to call for all school workers, not only teachers, and in care homes and home visitors to be given the vaccine as priority.

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