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Media Release

Busier than ever – Bath Racecourse NHS vaccine centre welcomes record numbers

The large public vaccine centre at Bath Racecourse is busier than ever and aiming to offer at least 1500 people a day their first or second coronavirus jab.

The centre is now offering two vaccines – Pfizer and AstraZeneca – and younger groups of people aged 34 and over are being contacted to book their appointment.

Heather Cooper, Vaccine Centre Operations Director said: "We're really busy and getting busier, with more capacity to vaccinate more people. My message is that as soon as you get the opportunity to book your vaccination, come up and see us at the racecourse.

"Since we opened in January we've vaccinated more than 50,000 people. That's very exciting because that's having a big impact on the population of Bath and surrounding areas."

The venue is being supported by an army of volunteers carrying out a range of tasks, such as meeting and welcoming people as they arrive, acting as car parking marshals and, of course, delivering the vaccination itself.

Visitors receive their vaccine in a large specially-equipped marquee near the main grandstand buildings. White boards inside carry messages from those who have been vaccinated, such as:

- "Thank you, very efficient, the NHS at its best."
- "Friendly! Caring – I felt very safe."

You can take a virtual tour of the Racecourse vaccine centre here
<https://youtu.be/z5INp14ccV0>

For more information on the local rollout of the coronavirus vaccine go to www.bswccg.nhs.uk

Detailed information about the vaccine itself can also be found online at www.nhs.uk

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Notes to Editor:

The Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust provides acute treatment and care for a catchment population of around 500,000 people in Bath, and the surrounding towns and villages in North East Somerset and Western Wiltshire. The hospital provides healthcare to the population served by four Clinical Commissioning Groups: Bath & North East Somerset CCG, Wiltshire CCG, Somerset CCG and South Gloucestershire CCG.

The Trust provides 759 beds and a comprehensive range of acute services including medicine and surgery, services for women and children, accident and emergency services, and diagnostic and clinical support services.

In 2015 The Royal United Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust acquired the Royal National Hospital for Rheumatic Diseases (RNHRD) NHS Foundation Trust. The RNHRD treats patients from across the country offering services in rheumatology, chronic pain and chronic fatigue syndrome/ME, cancer related fatigue and fatigue linked to other long term conditions such as multiple sclerosis.

The RUH is changing - we have an exciting programme of redevelopment underway transforming our site and further improving the services we provide. The Trust has opened the purpose-built RNHRD and Brownsword Therapies Centre and is now working towards the new Dyson Cancer Centre. For more details visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk/about/fit_for_the_future

For more information about the Royal United Hospitals Bath NHS Foundation Trust visit: www.ruh.nhs.uk