



The Government of Sark

## **PANDEMIC EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

**A COMMITTEE OF THE CHIEF PLEAS OF SARK**

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### **VACCINATION DISTRIBUTION**

It has come to the attention of the Committee that some residents are concerned about the progress of the vaccination programme on Sark.

The supply issues of vaccine are out of the control of Sark and ultimately Guernsey. We cannot just order a number of vaccines outside the scheduled protocol; we are required by law to adhere to the legislation of the relevant organisations that govern vaccine provision. Vaccines are only available through the national supply chain, cannot be ordered direct and Guernsey is our provider. The vaccines from Guernsey are provided free of charge.

Both the Chair of the Pandemic Emergency Committee and the Practice Nurse have tried to order vaccines in advance for the next cohorts and have been told categorically that Sark will receive the next batch when they are due and not before.

Whilst it may be frustrating that Sark, as an Island with a small population, cannot simply have all of its residents vaccinated at once, the supply is not based on the number of residents but is proportional, relating to the 1-9 categories which relates to the rate of supply from the manufacturer.

It is the UK Scheme that Guernsey, Jersey and Sark are following with the schedule based on the UK supply chain. The order of people being vaccinated follows the UK Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) plan, which is a condition of being able to obtain the vaccine.