

31<sup>st</sup> December 2020

For local media

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **Vaccinations underway at Dudley hospital**

Vaccinations against COVID-19 are being carried out at Russells Hall Hospital in Dudley.

The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust was named as a hospital hub for the vaccination programme and began receiving supplies of the vaccine between Christmas and the New Year. Patients over 80, including those with outpatient appointments, are being prioritised, along with high-risk frontline staff.

Trust chief executive Diane Wake said: “We are delighted to be able to carry out vaccinations and are following the national guidance on priority groups.

“I am especially proud of the way staff have worked tirelessly, giving up days off, weekends and holiday, to get our vaccination centre up and running. We all believe that this will make a real difference in the fight against COVID, but need the public to play their part by continuing to follow all the measures in place, and remember hands – face – space. That remains our best defence at the moment.”

Patients are being contacted by the Trust with appointments and the public are asked not to contact the hospital.

#### **CAPTION**

One of the first people vaccinated at Russells Hall Hospital was octogenarian Mary, pictured with chief executive Diane Wake.

\*\*\* ENDS \*\*\*

Issued by the communications team at The Dudley Group NHS Foundation Trust.