

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE



**HOUSE OF COMMONS**

LONDON SW1A 0AA

1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

*Dear Constance,*

**RE: CORONAVIRUS VACCINES FOR DENTISTS**

Thank you for your recent correspondence in respect of your concerns regarding vaccines for dentists.

I am delighted that both the Pfizer/BioNTech and the Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccines have now been approved for use in the UK and are now being administered. The Moderna vaccine has also now been approved for use too and two more are progressing very favourably, with encouraging results. Although there is still some way to go, these developments provide some much-needed, fresh hope that we can beat this pandemic and there is now meaningful light at the end of the tunnel.

The recently approved Oxford University/AstraZeneca vaccine will help to significantly speed up and expand the vaccination programme. The vaccine is affordable and easy to store and I welcome this as a huge step forward in our fight against Coronavirus.

Initially, the vaccine will be offered to all residents in a care home for older adults and their carers; all those 80 years of age and over; frontline health and social care workers; all those 75 years of age and over; all those 70 years of age and over; and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals. In short, the Joint Committee on Vaccination & Immunisation (JCVI) has advised that the priority for the vaccination programme should be the prevention of mortality and the protection of health and social care staff and systems and I am reassured that dentists and dental teams are patient-facing frontline health workers, who are being vaccinated as part of the first swathe.

I am also attaching a copy of a 'Dear Colleague' letter I have received from the Secretary of State for Health & Social Care, the Rt. Hon Matt Hancock MP, which sets out the latest progress of the roll-out of the UK vaccination programme.

Finally, I would just like to add that I understand the past twelve months have been very tough for us all. Dentistry is an integral part of the clinical services provided by the NHS and I would like to thank all those dentists, dental nurses and others in the industry that have gone above and beyond to ensure treatment has been able to continue safely and efficiently.

Once again, thank you for having taken the time to contact me and if I can ever be of any further assistance to you then please do not hesitate to contact me again.

*With best wishes,*

**TOM PURSGLOVE MP**  
**MEMBER OF PARLIAMENT**  
**CORBY & EAST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE**