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Scottish Government
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Rt Hon Nicola Sturgeon MSP
First Minister of Scotland

St Andrew's House, Regent Road, Edinburgh EH1 3DG

January 2021

The Festive season and these first weeks of January have presented us all with challenges as we look to reduce the spread of coronavirus. The introduction of a new strain which spreads more easily has required us all to take further steps to prevent the virus taking hold in Scotland.

Recent weeks have been difficult, and while there is hope on the horizon with the roll out of the vaccine to our elderly and most vulnerable, we all need to continue to stick to the rules and play our part in tackling coronavirus in our communities.

It's important to keep the virus under control for many reason including the impact on how our health resources are used. Lowering the virus levels means more of our NHS can be used for non-COVID health needs. In the months ahead, NHS Scotland services will continue to be open and committed to providing care to those in need. To make sure you receive the appropriate care at the right time, please read the enclosed leaflets that accompany this letter. Remember, the NHS is there to help you when you need it.

I will never be able to thank you, your family and your loved ones, enough for what you have sacrificed to help Scotland through this pandemic so far. I know it's hard, but taking these difficult steps is our main weapon against the virus – to protect our lives, our health and our jobs – until the vaccine for coronavirus becomes more widely available.

In the beginning of the vaccination programme, those in care homes for older adults (both residents and staff), patient-facing health and social care workers, and people aged 80 and over are being prioritised. We are doing this in line with advice from the Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI), to make sure those most at risk are vaccinated first. Vaccination of all other groups will begin as soon as a greater supply of vaccine becomes available.

NHS Scotland strongly recommends you get your coronavirus vaccine as soon as it is offered to you. It is the best protection against coronavirus – helping to protect you and your family.

Thank you for sticking with it, Scotland.

Nicola Sturgeon

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First Minister of Scotland

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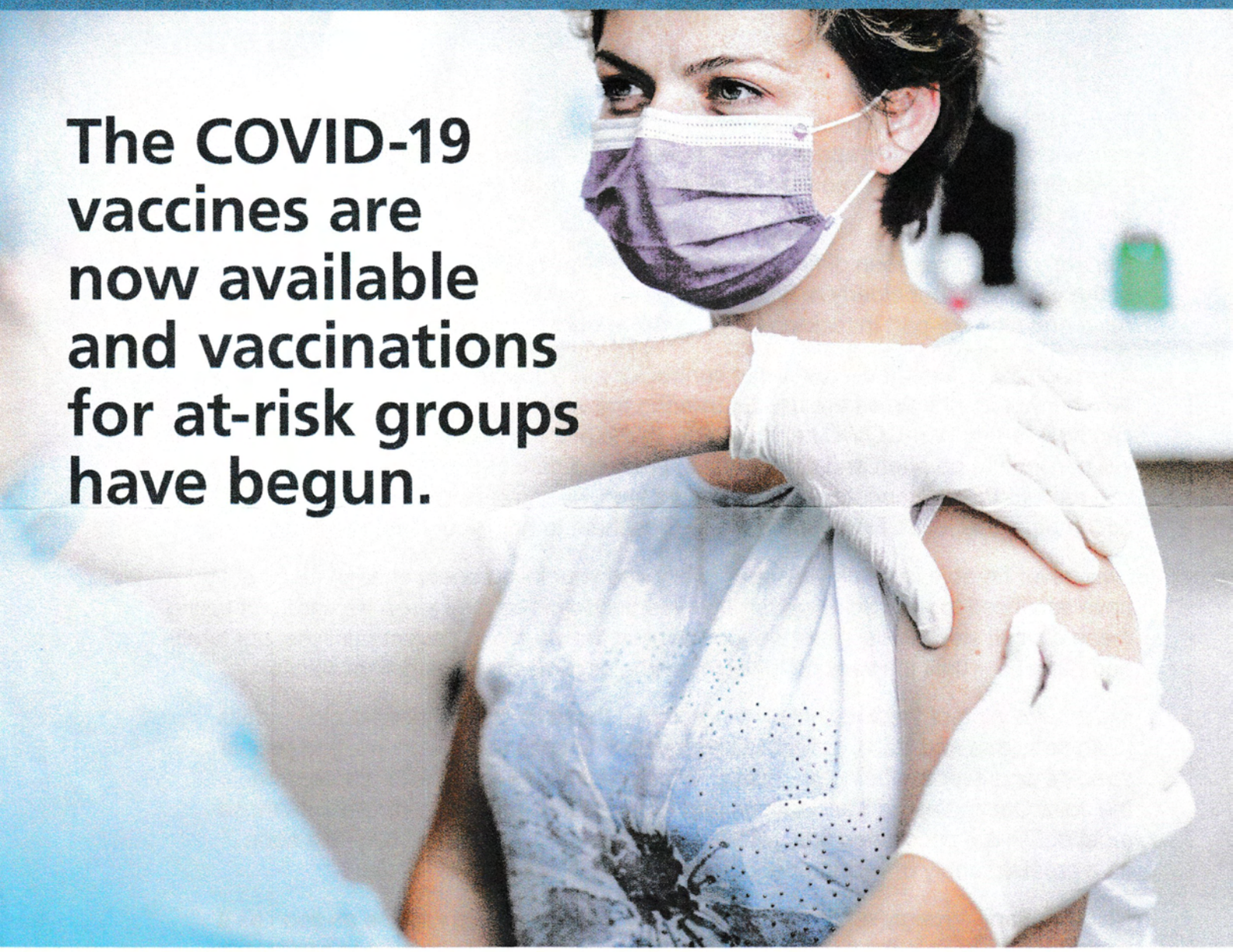
The COVID-19 vaccine

Vaccinations for COVID-19 have begun



The COVID-19 vaccines are now available and vaccinations for at-risk groups have begun.

For more information about the vaccine, visit **nhsinform.scot/covid19vaccine** or phone **0800 030 8013**. We will invite you forward to be vaccinated. You do not have to get in touch with your GP.

NHS SCOTLAND

Public Health Scotland

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