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THE BIG PICTURE

Under starters orders: NHS's biggest ever vaccine drive

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Patients receive covid-19 vaccines at an NHS vaccination centre set up in the grounds of Epsom Downs racecourse in Surrey.

The site, with six other mass vaccination centres in London, Newcastle, Manchester, Birmingham, Bristol, and Stevenage, forms part of the government's attempts to ramp up its ambitious covid vaccination programme.

It has announced plans to offer at least two million vaccinations a week at over 2700 sites in the UK, with the target to offer every adult a vaccine by the autumn.

The priority of the Epsom site as it opened was to offer vaccinations to healthcare and social workers and people aged over 80 living within a 45 minute drive of the racecourse.