

## Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 28 January 2022

### A message from Alex Woodman, Executive Director Community Protection & Chief Fire Officer



Dear colleague,

We've now moved back to 'Plan A' guidance, signaling a return to something that might feel more like normality for some members of the public. For others, COVID-19 is still causing uncertainty and disruption, although thanks to the vaccination programme, the vast majority of people who are infected with COVID-19 do not require hospital treatment. The latest data from the UK Health Security Agency shows that just two weeks after getting their booster, people are 89% less likely to end up in hospital due to COVID-19 than those who are unvaccinated.

This week, there are more walk-in vaccination clinics available in our area than ever before, with almost [50 different locations](#) to choose from, from Bishop's Stortford to Wormley! From hostels for the homeless to women's refuges, supermarket car parks and village halls – there have never been more places to get protected and get on with living your life.

### COVID vaccination update

#### Protecting clinically vulnerable children aged 5-11

Starting from tomorrow (29 January) COVID-19 vaccinations are being offered to 5-11 year-old children in Hertfordshire who are themselves in a clinical risk group, or who are household contacts of someone who is immunosuppressed. Each vaccine for this age group will be a third of the dose given to older children and adults. Children will need two injections, usually eight weeks apart.

Parents and carers of children who are eligible should be invited to a vaccination clinic by their GP in the next two weeks. Anyone whose child is in one of the eligible groups and hasn't had their invitation by 11 February should contact their GP for a vaccination appointment. Parents of eligible children who go to a special educational needs school will be contacted by the school and offered the opportunity to have their child vaccinated during the school day.

You can find out more in ['A guide for parents of children aged 5 to 11 years of age at high risk'](#).

### Extra support to improve access to GP services this winter

Access to GP services is an essential part of the NHS' winter plans. Our area's two Clinical Commissioning Groups are working with Hertfordshire's GP surgeries to ensure that general

practice has the support and technology needed to deliver care for patients in the right way and at the right time. In addition, national NHS funding has been provided to practices this winter to increase the number of appointments that are available to patients.

Work is also underway to make improvements, where necessary, to the ways that patients' enquiries can be answered, and routine requests such as repeat prescriptions processed efficiently. Hertfordshire surgeries are increasing their digital options but understand that not all residents have or can use the internet – so none-digital alternatives are very important too.

A procurement process to support practices to help their patients to access help and treatment more easily will be completed in February, with improvement work expected to start from April.

Thank you.