

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 13 August 2021

**A message from Genna Telfer, Assistant Chief Constable and
Chair of the strategic coordination group of the LRF**



Dear colleague,

We've moved into another phase of our efforts to tackle COVID this week, as the vaccination campaign has now extended to the general population of 16- and 17-year-olds. This is another step towards restoring public confidence and reducing the disruption and distress that COVID-19 causes in our communities.

Now that arrangements for this group are up and running, we're really keen to get as many young people on the road to protection before the new autumn school term starts – please pass the information in this update on to your friends, colleagues and networks.

Vaccination roundup

New groups eligible for vaccination

All of Hertfordshire's 16 and 17-year-olds can now have a dose of the Pfizer vaccine. A single dose will provide 80% protection against hospitalisation and protection could be even higher as younger people generally respond better to vaccines. Some will have already had COVID-19, but this doesn't mean that they don't need to be vaccinated, it means that they will have an even better immune response to the vaccine. The JCVI will provide further guidance on whether a second vaccine should be offered to this age group in future.

16-17-year-olds do not need the consent of their parents or guardians to have the vaccine, but they are very welcome to attend a vaccination centre with a parent, carer or friend. Anyone who is anxious will be well looked after and staff will be happy to help with any questions that a young person might have.

At present, the general population of people under 18 **cannot** use the national booking system. This week they have been able to walk-in to vaccination clinics without an appointment in either **Hemel Hempstead, Watford, or Letchworth**, and from Monday 16 August, all of the large vaccination clinics operated across the county by Hertfordshire Community Trust will offer walk-in vaccinations for 16–17-year-olds. Details of all the walk-in sites offering vaccinations to this group are updated regularly and are available here: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>. They will be widely publicised.

In addition, some of Hertfordshire's groups of GP practices, called 'Primary Care Networks', will also start to vaccinate 16–17-year-olds very soon. Practices will contact their patients directly to make arrangements for them if this is a service that they plan to offer. There is no need for people to contact the NHS – everyone eligible will be contacted.

Another ‘Super Sunday’ planned for Watford

After almost 2,000 people were vaccinated at Watford’s ‘Super Sunday’ Pfizer clinic back in June at Vicarage Road Stadium, residents including newly eligible 16 and 17 year olds are being urged to ‘score’ themselves their first COVID-19 vaccine or get their second dose, as the town’s biggest ever pop-up vaccination clinic returns on Sunday 22 August.

People who would prefer the certainty of a booked appointment can go to www.watford.gov.uk/supersunday or call 01923 278616 (lines open Monday 16 August at 9am and close at 3pm on Friday 20 August) and a member of staff will make a booking on their behalf. Alternatively, people can walk up on the day without an appointment, but they should be prepared to queue to enter the stadium.

People who go along won’t need to provide ID and don’t need to be registered with a GP, nor be worried that their immigration details will be passed on. The stadium is fully wheelchair accessible and disabled parking is available.

COVID vaccination and pregnancy – the campaign continues

Our campaign to inform, support and encourage people who are pregnant, breastfeeding or trying to conceive to get the COVID-19 vaccine was boosted this week, thanks to a report from Look East featuring experts from our local NHS and a new mum with her baby.

There’s increasing evidence that pregnant women who catch COVID-19 can be at greater risk of getting severely ill with the virus, particularly in the later stages of pregnancy. Please continue to support our efforts to address people’s concerns by sharing the advice and resources on this topic on the Healthier Future website, which you can view here:

<https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/information-and-resources>

Thank you.