

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update – 9 July 2021

**A message from Darryl Keen, Director of Community Protection,
Chief Fire Officer and Chair of the strategic coordination group of the LRF**



Dear colleague,

There will be mixed emotions over the next few weeks following the Government's latest announcement on all remaining restrictions lifting from 19 July across England. COVID-19 won't end when the rules change, in fact cases are rising. In Hertfordshire alone, the most recent verified figures show that there's been a 69.4% increase in cases in a seven-day period.

Hertfordshire's businesses have a duty of care to their employees and customers under the Health and Safety at Work Act, so are currently considering how best they can protect both of these groups. There will therefore undoubtedly be the need for restrictions at some locations or venues, both to keep everyone safe, and to reduce the risk of businesses needing to close due to outbreaks.

It's important as we move into this next phase to remember that what's comfortable to one person won't be the same for everyone. The most important thing right now is for us all to keep doing the things which stop infection – and keep each other safe:

- get vaccinated if you're 18 or over
- give people space
- keep washing your hands thoroughly and regularly
- wear face coverings in crowded indoor areas
- ventilate workplaces and social spaces
- take a rapid or 'lateral flow' test twice a week, if you don't have symptoms
- get a PCR test and self-isolate if you do have symptoms.

We can all learn to live with COVID, but it will require a team effort and we must all #playourpart.

For more Hertfordshire COVID data, see: https://hcc-phei.shinyapps.io/covid19_public_dashboard/

Vaccination update

Are you one of our million?

The ongoing effort to vaccinate our population continues at an unrelenting pace. This week saw us reach two notable milestones, with 1,000,000 Hertfordshire and west Essex residents having had their first dose and 750,000 now fully vaccinated. Some really remarkable teamwork has gone into achieving these results.

Community leaders, faith groups, voluntary and community organisations, businesses, LRF organisations, district and county councils and volunteers have all rallied round the NHS to ensure that no-one is left behind by the vaccination programme. It has never been easier to get vaccinated, with over 400 walk-in and pop-up clinics offering first and second doses in just a two-

week period. If you know of an under-represented group or a workplace where the take-up of the vaccination is low, please do get in touch with enquiries@healthierfuture.org.uk so that we can try to arrange a targeted clinic. Help with translated promotional materials and information is available by prior arrangement.

The venues for walk-in clinics are too numerous to list here and are updated every day, so please keep sharing this webpage with your contacts – all the details and a wide range of information and resources are here: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

New guidance on the gap between first and second doses

This week, official guidance on the appropriate gap between first and second doses was updated. Now everybody (not just those 40 or over) is being encouraged to get their second vaccination eight weeks after their first. Unfortunately, staff at our vaccination centres are facing pressure from some members of the public to vaccinate them again before the eight-week gap is up. Our centres are sticking firmly to the guidance we have received from the national NHS senior responsible officer for the vaccination programme, Professor Keith Willett.

Supporting our communities

Hertfordshire Volunteering and People Assistance Cell (VPAC): Funding has been made available by Public Health Hertfordshire from the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF) to support local groups and organisations to address COVID-19 vaccine inequalities and to encourage further take-up, across all age groups.

Grants of up to £5,000 are available to support any work that could lead to further vaccine take-up and an increase in vaccination rates across Hertfordshire. This could include tailored communications such as translation services, transport, website modifications, information sharing events and befriending services, or other ideas. VPAC is keen that the funding supports areas of deprivation and diverse ethnicities where COVID-19 has had a significant impact. Funding will be awarded at the end of August 2021 and must be spent fully by 31 March 2022. If you are an eligible organisation and would like to apply, or promote this opportunity to other organisations, [the link for applications is here](#).

Additional funding has also been provided from the COMF pot to support other VPAC recovery initiatives across the voluntary and community sector. This includes:

- COVID Information Champions transitioning to a longer term 'Community Champions' delivery model aligned with restrictions easing.
- Extending the Community Help Hertfordshire delivery model, which unifies the CVS organisations across Hertfordshire under one joint umbrella with a new focus on recovery. People who have received support will be proactively contacted and offered help to rebuild their mental and physical wellbeing and to get them engaged with their local community. Support could include:

- shopping (please note there is no delivery charge for this service, but the client will be billed for the shopping)
- a walking buddy (building confidence to go out and about again)
- a bus buddy (building confidence to start using public transport again)
- befriending calls (a friendly phone call for people who just want a chat with someone)
- help with dog walking.
- Delivering pulse oximeters, to enable people to monitor their own blood oxygen levels at home.
- Supporting organisations offering financial and debt advice including Citizens Advice and Age UK.
- Developing the public and professional awareness of HertsHelp for COVID recovery support, including marketing and branding, as well as outreach promotion.
- Providing additional funding for the countywide multi-agency digital inclusion project “staying connected”.

HertsHelp continues to provide an independent information and advice service, acting as a gateway to voluntary services in Hertfordshire as well as running the Crisis Intervention Service. They can link people to the Hospital and Community Navigation Service, Community Help Hertfordshire for volunteer support, Hertswise dementia support and independent advocacy services. HertsHelp is open 7 days a week, from 8am to 8pm and 10am to 4pm on weekends. If you're not sure whether they can help, just give them a call on 0300 123 4044 or email info@HertsHelp.net

Communities 1st: Communities 1st and partners continue to recruit 16-17 year olds to volunteer in vaccination centres across Hertfordshire. Volunteering can give young people purpose and routine and help them feel that they are making a difference. If you know a young person who would like to sign up, they can [register online here](#), email volunteer@communities1st.org.uk or call 020 3940 4865. Communities 1st volunteers have provided over 125,000 hours of support in local vaccination centres. Be #PartoftheSolution.

New 'Managed Quarantine Service' hotel designated in Dacorum

The Department for Health and Social Care is expanding Managed Quarantine Service (MQS) hotel accommodation for travellers who have to quarantine for a minimum of 10 days on return from 'red list' countries.

Local Resilience Forum partners have worked closely with the Department for Health and Social Care to set up an MQS at the Holiday Inn in Markyate. The hotel has all the required measures in place to support guests and safeguard the local community, including:

- 24-hour security staff and liaison officers to support hotel guests and staff
- 24-hour medical support
- access to translation services to support guests for whom English is not their first language

Further support to be introduced will include:

- access to a psychiatrist and telephone counselling
- access to adult and child social worker support.

Passengers are required to quarantine for 10 days in a MQS hotel and undertake tests on days 2 and 8. If guests test positive during the initial quarantine period they have to remain in hotel accommodation for a further 10 days from the date of the positive test. Penalties may apply for guests who do not comply with these requirements. The health, wellbeing and safeguarding of all MQS residents is of the highest priority.

Economic recovery

Better Business for All COVID-19 webinars for businesses: The last event in a series of 'Trading Safely' webinars will be held on Friday 23 July, in partnership with Hertfordshire Chamber of Commerce. It will focus on the changes at Step 4 of the roadmap, what this means for businesses and how local council teams can support. Further information and booking details can be found here: [Calendar Detail \(hertschamber.com\)](https://www.hertschamber.com/calendar-detail)

Thank you.