

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update – 11 June 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,

As of Thursday 10 June, 894,066 people in Hertfordshire and west Essex have received at least their first vaccination. That's a significant achievement, but it's vitally important that everyone goes along for their second vaccination too.

A minority of people are reportedly putting off their second vaccination because of the prospect of potential side-effects. Vaccine side-effects are almost always mild and short-lived – whereas we know that contracting COVID-19 can be potentially devastating for individuals, their families and communities. The effectiveness of the vaccines currently being offered in the UK is significantly increased after two doses. Please help to spread this important message.

Vaccination update

Younger people now eligible to be vaccinated

On Tuesday 8 June, the vaccination programme opened up to people aged 25-29. With both Pfizer and Moderna – the vaccinations currently recommended for younger adults - in fairly short supply, appointment availability is limited and people may need to regularly check the National Booking Service or ring 119 to find a suitable slot.

Meanwhile, vaccination walk-in sessions covering the week up to and including 20 June have been published on the COVID-19 [website](#). These sessions are suitable for people aged 40 or over who can receive the AstraZeneca vaccine.

Encouraging employers to support their staff to get protected

If you have a good relationship with the local businesses in your area, please ask them to do everything they can to support their staff to get vaccinated as soon as possible. Some people who haven't been vaccinated have told outreach staff they are concerned that vaccination side-effects might cause them to be unable to work for a day or two, and that they can't afford to lose pay. All employers are urged to do everything in their power to support their staff to take up their vaccination when it is offered. A vaccinated workforce is a more resilient workforce.

Outreach vaccination clinics can potentially be arranged in medium or large employment sites in Hertfordshire and west Essex, if there is sufficient demand. Please contact enquiries@healthierfuture.org.uk if you would like to find out more about this offer.

Changes to vaccination sites

A few vaccination sites are changing over the coming weeks. People will be contacted directly if their appointment is affected.

Changes include:

- the GP-led vaccination centre in Hertford has moved from the theatre to McMullens Brewery in the town
- the Bishop's Stortford Avanti School vaccination centre is closing on 14 June and will take over the Bishop's Stortford Football Club vaccination centre site on 17 June
- The former Da Vinci School centre in Letchworth is closing on 20 June and will reopen in the former Argos building in the town centre on 24 June

Alongside fixed vaccination sites across our area, pop-up clinics will continue to take the vaccination offer directly to the heart of communities where there is lower take-up.

Testing

Testing is a vital element in the fight to keep track of COVID variants, detect symptomless infection and prevent the spread of the virus. It's important that everyone uses the right kind of tests.

Rapid (lateral flow) tests: These are only to be used by people **without** symptoms. You can get tested at a [testing site](#) or use a home testing kit. More information about home testing kits is available on the [Hertfordshire County Council website](#).

PCR tests: If you **have symptoms** of COVID-19 (high temperature, a new continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste) you **must** take a PCR test. You can either [order a test kit to be sent to your home or book a test](#) at one of the drive-through testing centres.

For more information about testing in Hertfordshire, visit:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/coronavirus-tests.aspx#rapid>

Supporting our communities

Volunteering update

Communities 1st, along with partner organisations, have continued to recruit volunteers to provide important support to vaccination sites across Hertfordshire, west Essex, Luton and Bedfordshire. Last weekend, Communities 1st volunteers reached 100,000 hours of volunteering in vaccination centres. More than 4,900 volunteers have now signed up to help in a variety of roles, from stewarding to administration.



Residents COVID Feedback Survey

As part of the ongoing Covid Information Champions project, Hertfordshire County Council has recently launched a Residents Covid Feedback Survey which is open to all those living in Hertfordshire.

The survey is being promoted by the network of Covid Information Champions across the county, as well as many other community groups and organisations. It will run online until the end of June and we would really appreciate your support to respond to, and promote the survey in your local area. The link to the survey is here: <https://surveys.hertfordshire.gov.uk/s/Q5W8MP/>

Thank you,

Darryl