

## Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update – 28 May 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,

I'd like to start this week's update by thanking all of the staff and volunteers who will be working to protect Hertfordshire residents this bank holiday weekend. The ongoing effort to tackle COVID-19 and restore our freedoms continues around the clock. Thank you to everyone who is playing a part in that effort.

### Vaccination update

#### Walk-in sessions continue

Due to their popularity, more walk-in sessions have been made available for eligible people to get their AstraZeneca vaccine without the need for an appointment – including over the bank holiday weekend.

Session times can change at short notice if there are vaccine supply issues and as with any first come, first served service, there may be queues if a session is particularly popular. People are advised to check with the [Healthier Future website](#) before travelling to a walk-in clinic, in order to ensure that they are eligible to be vaccinated and that the session is taking place as planned.

#### Robertson House celebrates 100,000 vaccinated patients

Secil from Letchworth became the 100,000th patient to be vaccinated at Robertson House in Stevenage this week. Congratulations to everyone involved in reaching this amazing milestone. You can see a video of the celebration on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

#### Resources for people concerned about fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding

To help put people's minds at ease about the vaccine in relation to fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding, a panel of experts has been brought together to answer questions from the public. From when to have the vaccine to answering common concerns, the panel discussion is available to view [here](#).

There's also a [video interview](#) with Kristy Thakur, a Hertfordshire County Council employee of Asian heritage who is championing the cause of the vaccine, particularly amongst people who are concerned about the vaccine and their fertility. Kristy recently had her first vaccination at Robertson House in Stevenage.

More information and useful resources are available on the [Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists website](#).

## **Second doses update**

Updated guidance on the timing of second doses has recently been clarified. The recommended interval between first and second doses for **AstraZeneca** is eight weeks for the top nine priority groups – which includes people aged 50 or over, health and care workers, carers and those who are at particular risk from COVID. Anyone who needs to bring their appointment forward can rearrange their appointment online via the National Booking Service, by calling 119, or by checking whether a suitable [walk-in session](#) is available.

Under 50s (AZ vaccine) will continue to get their second dose 12 weeks after their first dose.

## **Supporting our communities**

### **Hertfordshire County Council appoints new Leader**

Following his formal appointment at the Full Council meeting on 25 May, newly appointed Leader of Hertfordshire County Council, Richard Roberts, has set out his priorities for the people of Hertfordshire over the next four years. The new Leader's priorities include supporting the county's recovery from Covid-19 and ensuring responsible and sustainable growth. More information can be found [here](#).

### **Hertfordshire Volunteering and People Assistance Cell**

Next week is national volunteer week. We would like to say a massive thank you to all the volunteers who have played their part in supporting the most vulnerable communities throughout the pandemic, many of whom are continuing to show the same dedication and support over a year later.

Across Hertfordshire, the total number of volunteers registered with TeamHerts and Communities Help Hertfordshire over the pandemic is 11,200, with more than 2,000 of those volunteers supporting local charities. 2,048 people are still regularly receiving support including assistance with shopping, help to get on-line, prescription collections, pet sitting, urgent supplies and a walking buddy scheme. Between March 2020 and March 2021, a total of 87,831 volunteer tasks have been completed.

### **Communities 1<sup>st</sup>**

Communities 1st and partners have continued to recruit volunteers to provide important support to vaccination sites across Hertfordshire, Luton and Bedfordshire. Over 4,900 volunteers have now signed up, and have committed to providing over 99,000 hours of support for vaccination sites in a variety of roles, from stewarding to administration.

## Economic Recovery

### Businesses sign-up to Safe to Trade scheme

More than 300 businesses in Broxbourne have now signed-up for the 'Safe to Trade' COVID-19 safety scheme pilot launched by Hertfordshire County Council, in partnership with Broxbourne Borough Council.

A Safe to Trade Scheme 'approved' accreditation reassures Broxbourne residents that an establishment is not only COVID-compliant, but that it is also doing more than the government requires to reduce the risk of spreading the virus. It also means that robust measures are in place to monitor its ongoing performance. [Find out more.](#)

### Regulatory Excellence Awards 2021

Hertfordshire Better Business for All has been shortlisted as a finalist in the Regulatory Excellence Awards 2021 for the work that has been carried out to support businesses throughout the pandemic. The COVID-19 Business Guidance Group, which includes district/borough council Environmental Health teams along with Trading Standards, Fire Protection, Licensing and Planning teams, have provided guides, templates and checklists that businesses have used to help them to trade safely, carry out COVID-19 risk assessments and comply with the law. The award winners will be announced on 10 June. More information about the awards can be found [here](#).

### New report on the [impact of COVID-19 on young people in Hertfordshire](#)

Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership has produced a report on behalf of HM Lord-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire. The report's findings demonstrate that now more than ever, young people, parents and carers need help to access the information they need to make informed career decisions. The new Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal, or HOP ([www.hopinto.co.uk](http://www.hopinto.co.uk)) is designed to help them.

Hertfordshire Local Enterprise Partnership is supporting the delivery of the Lord Lieutenant's report to all state secondary schools, further and higher education establishments and youth groups, and is running a competition to encourage as many young people, parents and carers to register on the Hertfordshire Opportunities Portal. A cash prize of up to £5,000 will be given to the school or youth group with the most registrations by 9 July. Competition details can be found [here](#).

**Apprenticeships:** As part of the LEP's ongoing [Hertfordshire Supports Apprenticeships](#) campaign, a series of events is being organised with Herts Chamber of Commerce. The first one in July will provide an 'apprenticeship toolkit' to employers.

Thank you for reading,

Darryl.