

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update – 26 March 2021

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



Dear stakeholders,

We have now seen close to 600,000 people in Hertfordshire and west Essex receive at least their first dose of the vaccine. The number of patients in hospital has reduced, however, we are still seeing some increased cases in the community so we need people to be sensible and follow the restrictions to avoid any negative setbacks.

Whilst some restrictions are relaxing from Monday, people should continue to work from home where they can and minimise the number of journeys they make where possible.

COVID-19 vaccination programme

This week health teams have been working hard to vaccinate as many people as possible before a reduction in vaccine supply will mean fewer appointments for first doses during April. You can see the latest vaccination figures [here](#).

The NHS [sent out a call](#) earlier this week to ask eligible people to get booked in now for their first vaccine. People who are aged 50 and over, eligible carers and those in vulnerable groups are being urged to book their vaccination as soon as possible, either online through the National Booking System, or by calling 119. During April, most vaccine supplies will be used to fully vaccinate people who are due their second jab and appointments and opening hours at vaccination sites will be in line with available supplies. GPs will continue to contact those most at-risk to book their vaccinations and will be working out in the community to boost vaccine take-up amongst all sections of our communities.

Tomorrow, Saturday (27 March), health teams will be running a pop-up vaccine clinic at a mosque in Watford and work is ongoing with other mosques in the county to vaccinate people before Ramadan starts on 12 April. Work with community groups across Hertfordshire continues to ensure they have the information they need and are encouraging their networks to take up the vaccine.

Update on vaccines for Carers

Eligible Carers aged 16+ who support an adult who is at a serious clinical risk from COVID and with whom they have close personal contact or face to face contact, will be contacted in phases by the NHS when it's their turn to receive the vaccine and will be given information about how to book their appointment.

It will also be easier for unpaid Carers over the age of 18 who are not already known to health and care services, to book through the [National Booking Service](#) by declaring they are eligible to have their vaccine.

Hospital updates

The number of patients in our hospitals with COVID-19 has reduced dramatically – and this week East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust is pleased to report that there are no patients in critical care with the virus.

The Lister vaccination hub has delivered over 27,000 doses to the local community and staff, and is set to close towards the end of April as second doses are completed.

Recovery plans continue – prioritising patients waiting for non-urgent treatment on the basis of clinical need and continuing cancer diagnostics and treatment as has been delivered throughout the pandemic.

COVID testing

Organisations have until Wednesday 31 March to express their interest in the Department of Health and Social Care [workplace testing scheme](#). Some Hertfordshire businesses have received their tests and are operating test sites in their premises.

Hertfordshire County Council has sent information to schools to encourage parents and secondary school age children continue to test themselves over the Easter holidays. A short animation about the importance of carrying out Lateral Flow Tests at home has been produced and circulated to young people (year 7 and above) via schools: www.youtube.com/watch?v=RglWrnC3suo

Policing update

With the rule of six back from Monday 29 March, police are keen that people remain responsible and follow the [roadmap out of lockdown](#). The 'stay at home' rule ends on Monday and up to six people or two households can meet outside.

Officers are still out on patrol policing coronavirus regulations using the well-established four Es approach of engaging, explaining and encouraging people to comply with the rules and using the final E of enforcement as a last resort. Additional hot spot patrols will continue with officers investigating and responding to reported breaches as necessary, liaising with council COVID marshals, environmental health and trading standards officers.

If you believe someone may be breaching the COVID-19 regulations, you can [report information online](#), speak to an operator in our Force Communications Room via our [online web chat](#) or call the non-emergency number 101.

Thank you, Darryl.