

## **Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 12 November 2021**

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



Dear colleague,

It's good to see from this week's updates from Communities 1<sup>st</sup> that face-to-face activities are getting underway again. We know that social isolation was a big issue for a lot of people last winter, particularly when it got too cold and dark to meet outside. Thanks to the vaccination programme, the availability of rapid 'lateral flow' tests and improved knowledge about the measures we can all take to prevent the spread of COVID-19, hopefully this winter will be a brighter and happier time for many of our residents.

### **Vaccination update**

#### **COVID-19 booster vaccinations and international travel**

Some residents have become concerned that their ability to travel abroad to countries including Israel and Austria might be restricted. This is because some governments now require people to have evidence that they have been recently vaccinated before they can travel to their country for a holiday or to visit family. Because booster vaccinations do not currently display on people's NHS COVID pass (available via the [NHS App](#)) proving that someone has been recently vaccinated with a booster is not very straightforward. This issue has been raised nationally with the teams working on the COVID pass and we will update you if there are any changes to this policy.

#### **Managing the numbers of parents and carers attending 12-15 year-old vaccination sessions**

The NHS is delighted at the continuing excellent turn-out at designated vaccination sessions for children aged 12-15 years old. However, colleagues running the clinics have asked you to help to spread the word about the number of people accompanying each child to a vaccination clinic. Because there is a mandatory 15 minute observation requirement after each vaccination, space in our clinics is at a premium. It would be hugely appreciated if just one adult carer could accompany each young person inside, with other family members waiting elsewhere, if at all possible. This will help to avoid over-crowding and keep people moving through calmly and efficiently.

#### **COVID boosters - book after 152 days, attend after 182 days**

As previously reported in these updates, eligible people can now make a booking for their six-month booster through the [national booking service](#). The online booking service is open a month before boosters are due, so you can book ahead if you want to get organised. You will only be able to actually **have** your jab 182 days (six months) after your second vaccination. Please share this message with your contacts, as our vaccinators hate to turn people away!

New booster vaccination sites are being added to the national booking system regularly, so please check back if there are none showing near you the first time you try to make a booking. Alternatively, check this website for [walk-in availability](#).

### **Watford Healthy Hub event - helping residents stay healthy this winter**

Watford Borough Council, supported by Hertfordshire Community NHS Trust, is bringing COVID vaccinations, blood pressure checks and health advice to North Watford Mosque, this Saturday (13 Nov) from 10am – 1pm. Local GPs and health practitioners will be available to offer health and wellbeing checks, guidance on general health, current NHS screening programmes and winter wellness.

This event is one of a number of pop-up COVID vaccination and healthy hub sessions taking place around the county in the next few weeks. Please look out for advertising and encourage people in your local community to attend a session near them.

## **Communities 1st update**

### **Community outreach hubs re-opening**

Community ‘outreach hubs’ run by Communities 1<sup>st</sup> have now restarted in Hertsmere and St Albans and the hubs in Broxbourne and East Herts will be opening in the new year. Drop into one of the hubs to find the perfect volunteering opportunity, plan an exciting day out, or book onto a development course. For more information visit: [www.communities1st.org.uk/communityshop](http://www.communities1st.org.uk/communityshop)

### **Digital skills workshops restarting**

‘Computers and a Cuppa’ weekly sessions, run by Communities 1<sup>st</sup>, have now restarted in Radlett and Potters Bar. These free sessions are a chance to learn new IT skills in a friendly, supportive environment with the help of digital champion volunteers. The sessions will be taking place at the Radlett Centre Café in Radlett, the Wyllyotts Centre in Potters Bar, and the Borehamwood Community Hub. For timings, visit: <https://tinyurl.com/aervzdcx>. If you have any questions about these drop-in sessions, email Lisa at: [Help@communities1st.org.uk](mailto:Help@communities1st.org.uk)

Thank you.