

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 19 November 2021

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



Dear colleague,

There's plenty to update you on this week from a range of teams working across our county to support residents and our workforce. Please do read and share this information with people that you know or represent that might be interested.

Your feedback on this weekly update is always welcome – do get in touch by replying to the email address you received this update from if you have any questions, comments or suggestions.

Vaccination update

Update to the NHS COVID pass – booster vaccinations now visible

From **today** (Friday 19 November), anyone in England with a digital NHS 'Covid Pass', available via their [NHS App](#), will be able to see their booster vaccine or third 'primary dose' displayed. This will enable people to demonstrate their up-to-date COVID-19 status when travelling abroad. The addition will enable those who have had their booster or third dose to travel to countries including Israel, Croatia and Austria, which have already introduced a time limit for the COVID-19 vaccine to be valid for quarantine-free travel.

The COVID Pass letter service has not yet been updated to show booster or third dose vaccinations, but this update is expected in due course.

Booster and third doses will not be added to the domestic COVID Pass, as it is not a current requirement for people to receive booster doses to qualify as fully vaccinated. It is not necessary to show evidence of a booster for travel into England at this time. Find out more about today's announcement [here](#).

Across Hertfordshire and west Essex, more than 315,000 people have already had their booster jab – that means that more than **75%** of those currently eligible have already taken action to get protected before their immunity dips, leaving them at risk from COVID-19.

New advice on when under-18s can be vaccinated after having COVID

This week the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation revised its advice on how long young people aged under 18 should wait between having the COVID-19 virus and getting a COVID-19 vaccination. The new advice increases the time a young person should wait to be vaccinated from four weeks after getting their positive test result to 12 weeks.

This change in advice reflects the fact that as scientists learn more about COVID-19, it has become apparent that younger people gain protection from natural infection that lasts them for a few months. By waiting a little longer for their vaccinations, young people are also less likely to experience side effects from their vaccinations. Because the change in guidance must take immediate effect, some young people who were

expecting to have their COVID vaccination very soon in their school or a vaccination centre will now have to wait a little longer. School vaccination teams will check with every young person whether or not they have had COVID since the start of the autumn term in September, and will not vaccinate pupils until 12 weeks have passed since they last tested positive.

Anyone who has a booked appointment at a vaccination centre for a child or young person who has recently had COVID will need to re-arrange that appointment for a future date. This can be done online through [this link](#), or by calling 119. Hertfordshire residents with queries about this policy change and what it means for their child or a young person they care for can call 01727 732062 for advice.

Please do share this information with the people you know to help avoid disappointment.

Booster vaccination – eligibility changes due to take effect soon

You may have heard the national announcement that adults aged 40+ will soon be able to have their COVID booster vaccinations, as long as at least 182 days have passed since their second vaccination dose. Our Hertfordshire vaccinators are waiting to receive the national directive which enables them to start booking in and vaccinating this new age group. We hope that this will be in place very soon – we will keep you updated next week.

Second doses available soon for 16 and 17 year-olds

You may also be aware that new guidance means that 16 and 17 year-olds will soon be able to have a second COVID vaccination, at least 12 weeks after their first. Once the national directive has been received to enable our vaccination centres to give out second doses to this age group, we will encourage 16 and 17 year-olds in our area to walk-in or book vaccination slots as soon as they are eligible.

Planning underway for a vaccination ‘big weekend’

On Saturday 27 and Sunday 28 November, the NHS is planning a ‘big weekend’, with an expected increase in vaccine supply allowing our area to increase the capacity in our vaccination centres. The move is part of a national effort to get as many people as possible vaccinated before winter sets in.

Please share this web address with your friends – it’s the best place for them to find out about local walk-in and pop-up vaccination clinics and it links to the national booking site too:

<https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

New winter wellbeing guide for all Hertfordshire households

This winter, it is more important than ever that we all do what we can to boost our immunity and stay as healthy and well as possible.

Hertfordshire County Council and Hertfordshire’s NHS Clinical Commissioning Groups – the organisations that plan and pay for the majority of local health services - have worked together to produce a useful winter health guide. The guide has the information you need on where to go for the right medical support and advice if you feel unwell, as well as tips on staying healthy, active and connected with your community.

The booklet will land on your doormat next week, please do look out for it and have a browse. If you prefer to read and share it online, it is available at: www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/winterwellbeing

FREE support packages to help businesses thrive in a COVID world

‘Stay Safe, Stay Open’ is a new support service to help small businesses in Hertfordshire to navigate changing COVID advice and regulations.

The service is designed to help businesses with risk assessments to ensure that they can continue to trade safely. It can also help with advice on planning for future success, offering expert help with financial matters and business continuity arrangements.

The support is free to access for eligible businesses in Hertfordshire and delivered in partnership with Hertfordshire Growth Hub, Better Business for All, Visit Herts and Local Authorities.

Find out more on all the upcoming and available support through the Stay Safe, Stay Open campaign at Hertfordshire Growth Hub.

Thank you.