

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 29 October 2021

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



Dear colleague,

The nights are drawing in and there's an autumnal feel in the air. With Halloween and the clocks going back this weekend, I'd like to thank all those colleagues working night shifts who will be putting in an extra hour's work between Saturday night and Sunday morning.

If you are planning to mark Halloween with a get-together, please remember to take a lateral flow test first, and if you're meeting indoors, keep rooms well ventilated if you can. COVID is still circulating in our communities.

Vaccination update

Half-term vaccination clinics for 12-15 year-olds a resounding success

Following an update in national policy, this half-term the NHS has been able to offer parents the ability to book their 12-15 year-olds in for a COVID-19 vaccination at one of our area's large vaccination centres.

Parents and carers of unvaccinated children have received written invitations from the NHS nationally to ensure that they are aware of this offer, which has also been promoted locally. There has been a very positive response, with hundreds of vaccinations administered at each of the special clinics for young people which were held during the week. As a result, this approach will continue to be offered for at least another three weeks, with bookings currently being taken until November 21. Parents and guardians are advised to attend vaccination sites with their children and consent will be sought on the day. Clinics will take place after school and at the weekends.

The current sites local to Hertfordshire and available to book from Monday 1 November for this age group (not currently open for walk-ins) are:

- **Hemel Hempstead** Hospital, Hillfield Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4AD
- **Letchworth Garden City** - former Argos Store, Garden Square Shopping Centre, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3DP
- **Stevenage** - Robertson House, 6 Six Hills Way, Stevenage, SG1 2FQ
- **Watford** - Town Hall, Watford. WD17 3EX
- **Harlow** - LeisureZone, Second Ave, Harlow, CM20 3DT

Bookable through the [national booking service](#) website or by calling 119, this gives an additional vaccination option for parents, alongside the school-based programme which has already vaccinated nearly half a million young people nationally. All of Hertfordshire's secondary schools will have been visited by school vaccination teams by mid-November, with follow-up sessions currently being planned for after this date.

There is information about the COVID vaccination programme tailored to the needs of parents and young people on this local website: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/vaccine-information-for-young-people>

COVID Booster programme

The roll-out of Booster vaccinations to eligible people continues, with an increasing take-up rate this week. This follows a national policy change which means that the NHS locally can now encourage people to take up their vaccination as soon as they are eligible (182 days after their second vaccination), rather than waiting to be called.

Drop-in and bookable clinics at our area's five large vaccination sites have proved popular, a number of community pharmacies are now offering vaccinations to those who book online or via 119, and GP practices are offering vaccinations to eligible patients too. More community pharmacies will start to host vaccination clinics in the weeks to come – further details will be included in future editions of this newsletter. As pharmacies 'go live' as vaccination sites, they become bookable [online](#) and via 119 by those who are eligible.

If your second vaccination was more than six months ago, you are increasingly at risk from COVID-19. Don't take chances with your health – get vaccinated now. Go online to <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/events/vaccination-walk-in-clinic-times> to find the opening times for a walk-in session near you.

Testing update

Hertfordshire County Council is continuing to promote rapid testing via social media and through its 'Play Your Part' materials. New animations and posts will start to appear on social media, supported by paid promotion of testing targeted at people who are disproportionately affected by COVID.

A campaign explaining the difference between rapid or 'lateral flow' tests, for people without symptoms, and PCR tests, for those with possible COVID symptoms, has been running throughout half-term, stressing the importance of rapid testing before seeing friends and family.

Supporting our communities

Hertfordshire Volunteering and People Assistance Cell

The volunteering and people assistance cell continues to prepare for what is likely to be a difficult winter, with COVID and flu circulating and some residents requiring financial, practical and emotional support. Below is a high-level summary of what's planned locally for the new national [Household Support Funding](#):

- Financial crisis support – amending the criteria for those eligible for food and financial support to reflect the increased demand over winter.
- Carers' support – exploring how we can reduce isolation and loneliness such as through helping to improve carers breaks uptake.
- COVID/flu/hospital discharge – seeking funding for a coordination role to help people to be safely discharged home from hospital, as well as supporting those who are waiting for treatment.
- Energy and food support – advertising support available and amendments to distribution process and criteria to ensure everyone that needs this support can access it.
- Frailty – increased signposting (such as via link workers) around falls support available.
- Getting together clubs – re-mobilisation of some organisations which previously hosted lunch clubs, but had to stop due to COVID-19 restrictions.



Various comms campaigns are planned to advertise these services, including leaflets and inclusion within the countywide NHS/HCC joint publication, due for distribution in late November. This will also target those that are isolated and/or under-served groups.

Communities 1st

Communities 1st has launched the 'Able2Enable' project that aims to help everyone volunteer, no matter what barriers they might be facing. The project provides one-to-one interviews with volunteers to discuss opportunities; workshops to help prepare them for their role; and an assigned 'buddy' to support them as they begin volunteering. The project will operate across Broxbourne, East Herts, Hertsmere, St Albans and Welwyn Hatfield.

To get involved, contact Anna by emailing Able2Enable@communities1st.org.uk or calling 020 3940 4865.

Thank you.