

## **Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 8 October 2021**

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



Dear colleague,

With mass participation events like the London Marathon and festivals and concerts underway again, it can be easy to forget that COVID is still circulating. Sadly, the virus is continuing to cause distress and disruption to Hertfordshire families, communities and essential services.

It's vital that we remain vigilant and keep taking preventative measures if we want to reduce the spread of COVID, so that we continue to do the things we enjoy this autumn and winter.

The good news is that people who are vaccinated are much less likely to become seriously ill. This is very clear from both nationally and locally available information. If you've already had COVID, please don't think that you don't need a vaccine – you do. The increased immunity that a vaccination provides will protect you, the people you care about, and the way we are able to live our lives in the months ahead.

### **Vaccination update**

#### **School-based vaccination programme - an update**

Due to the very positive response to the vaccination offer from Hertfordshire's 12-15 year-olds and their parents, there have been some occasions when it hasn't been possible to vaccinate everyone during the initial allotted clinic times in their secondary schools.

HCT, the NHS organisation providing school-based vaccinations in Hertfordshire, is in the process of scheduling catch-up visits to schools where necessary. The details of these sessions will be shared with parents and carers via school headteachers as soon as possible. In addition to school-based vaccination sessions, HCT is looking into other options to deliver the vaccination programme, such as clinics in large vaccination centres.

The patience and understanding of parents, pupils and teachers at this very busy time in the vaccination programme is greatly appreciated.

#### **Immunosuppressed individuals – third primary doses**

In line with [guidance issued on 2 September](#), a **third 'primary' dose** of a COVID vaccine should be offered to people aged 12 years and over with severe immunosuppression, and the people they live with.

People who are eligible to receive a third primary dose **do not** need to wait for six months after their second COVID vaccination. National JCVI guidance states that those who are on regular immunosuppressive medication or have relatively stable immunosuppression can be called for vaccination 8 weeks after their second dose.

GP practices and hospital specialists have been asked to identify people they care for that need a third 'primary' vaccination, and invite them and their household contacts aged 12+ to be vaccinated by their GP practice.

Anyone [eligible](#) that hasn't been invited in for this vaccination by **Monday 11 October** should get in touch with their GP practice, tell practice staff that they are immunosuppressed, and ask them to arrange a third primary dose of vaccine as soon as possible.

### **Reminders going out to un-vaccinated residents this weekend**

We know that there are a number of Hertfordshire residents (mainly aged under 40) who have not yet taken up their vaccination offer, or who have had one vaccination but not their second.

Starting today, text messages, emails and letters will be sent by the NHS to anyone who has not yet taken up their full vaccination offer – encouraging them to come forward. With GP practices across Hertfordshire holding vaccination clinics, and a number of new community pharmacies also vaccinating, we hope that even more people will make the decision to get the protection they are entitled to. Please remind the people you know that they will always be welcome in a vaccination clinic. Details of how to book, or walk-in to a drop-in clinic, can be found [here](#).

Thank you.