

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 22 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 many Hertfordshire families and children are looking forward to half-term in the week ahead. There's no let-up for our busy health and care system though – with hospitals, GP practices and the ambulance service all reporting unusually high levels of activity for the time of year. Unless it's a 999 emergency, please encourage the people you know to seek urgent advice online or over the phone from the NHS 111 service before making the decision to travel to A&E. There may be local options that meet their needs more quickly and conveniently.

Vaccination update

More ways to join the 100,000 Herts and west Essex residents who have had their COVID-19 booster

Following a national announcement by Secretary of State for Health and Social Care Sajid Javid, people who are eligible for their COVID booster jab **no longer need to wait to be contacted** by their GP or the national NHS team. Instead, after six months have passed since their second vaccination, they can and should take up their booster vaccination as soon as possible.

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.

People who are eligible for their top-up jab can book an appointment [online](#) or by ringing 119 for a booster dose if it has been at least six months (182 days) since they had their second dose of the vaccine.

It's vitally important that the following people top up their immunity levels before they start to naturally decline, leaving them vulnerable to COVID:

- anyone aged 50 or over
- anyone aged 16 or over with a [health condition](#) that puts them at high risk from COVID-19, and their adult carers or household members aged 12 and over
- frontline health or social care workers
- people over 16 years of age with a learning disability or severe mental illness and their carers

To make booster vaccinations even easier to access in Hertfordshire, you can now also drop-in to some vaccination clinics across our area – **without** having to book in advance. Drop-in sessions are scheduled to run in these locations until at least the end of October.

- **Hemel Hempstead** Hospital, Hillfield Road, Hemel Hempstead, HP2 4AD
- **Letchworth Garden City** - former Argos Store, Garden Square Shopping Centre, Letchworth Garden City, SG6 3DP
- **London Colney** - Caledon Community Centre, Caledon Road, London Colney, AL2 1PS
- **Sandridge** - Village hall, 39 High Street, Sandridge, AL4 9DD
- **Stevenage** - Robertson House, 6 Six Hills Way, Stevenage, SG1 2FQ
- **Watford** - Town Hall, Watford. WD17 3EX

Go online to <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/events/vaccination-walk-in-clinic-times> and find the opening times for a session near you or your local friends and family members.

Half-term vaccination opportunities for our area's 12-15 year-olds

As we head into October half-term, it's good to be able to share the news that there are now more ways for young people to get their vaccinations in our area. **From Saturday 23 October, and initially for a limited period**, parents will be able to book a COVID-19 vaccination at a large vaccination centre for their 12-15 year-old children.

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. We know that lots of Hertfordshire parents are keen to get their children vaccinated and some have missed school-based opportunities due to sickness, or because they have had to wait for 28 days after testing positive for COVID-19.

Parents and guardians will be advised to attend vaccination sites with their children if they want them to be vaccinated outside of school hours, and consent will be sought on the day.

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>

The current sites local to Hertfordshire and available to book for this age group (not 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

This route to vaccination will run until **at least** the end of October. The website <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/> will continue to be updated with vaccination availability locally.

Ongoing efforts to support vaccination in pregnancy

To support the drive to encourage our area's at-risk pregnant women to get vaccinated, an educational webinar for the health professionals who support them took place this week. The interactive session featured experts from all of our area's acute hospitals and has been recorded so that it can be widely shared with busy maternity staff.

Covering the COVID-19 vaccine and fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding the webinar is designed to build confidence in the vaccine amongst the influential health professionals who advise patients and their families. For more information on this topic, go to:

<https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/pregnancy-breastfeeding-and-fertility>.

Thank you.