

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 24 September 2021

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



Dear colleague,

It has been another busy and challenging week for public sector organisations, and once again I would like to thank everyone who has lent either practical or moral support to those working hard to keep the county's residents safe and well. Hertfordshire Constabulary are aware of a number of disruptive protests at vaccination centres, and we are working in partnership to ensure that staff can continue to deliver their vital service.

My particular thanks this week go to the schools that are facilitating the COVID vaccination programme – their support for parents, pupils and the vaccination effort is hugely appreciated.

Vaccination roundup

Vaccination centre changes

As the vaccination campaign enters its third phase, there are a number of planned changes to the ways in which COVID vaccinations are being delivered.

- Groups or 'Primary Care Networks' of GP practices are once again inviting their own eligible patient lists to receive their booster vaccinations using local booking arrangements. GPs will contact their own patients when it is their turn to be vaccinated.
- Well over 20 **additional** community pharmacies will begin to offer vaccinations to everyone eligible – bookable via the National Booking System – over the next few weeks. As a consequence of this enhanced local offer, some of the large 'permanent' vaccination centres operating in our area will close.
- 'Pop-up' vaccination clinics are continuing to take protection against COVID into the heart of local communities, with two sessions planned next week for students returning to the University of Hertfordshire. Vaccination teams continue to liaise closely with local businesses, community and faith groups to build strong support networks and help anyone who is unsure about whether to get vaccinated. Targeted communications campaigns and materials are helping to combat misinformation and apathy.
- Hertfordshire's secondary schools are now hosting COVID vaccination sessions for 12-15 year-olds, in addition to an extended flu vaccination campaign and the HPV vaccination programme.

For those who haven't yet taken up their vaccination, it's important to remember that this is an 'evergreen' offer – regardless of whether you have missed your initial invitation, or fallen behind with your second jab, you will always be welcome in a vaccination centre. At the latest count, 984,958 people in Hertfordshire and west Essex had chosen to have both their COVID jabs.

'Booster' vaccination programme gets underway this week

COVID-19 'booster' jabs are now being given to the following groups of people in Hertfordshire, if at least **six months** has passed since they received their second dose of the vaccine:

- people living in residential care homes for older adults
- all adults aged 50 years or over
- frontline health and social care workers
- all those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19
- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals.

When it's their turn, eligible people are being invited by phone, text or letter to get their booster vaccination either by making an appointment through the [national booking service](#) or through an invitation to a local GP-run service. New booster vaccination sites are due to be added to the national booking system all the time, so people are advised to check back if there are none showing near them the first time they try to make a booking. There are no walk-in clinics for booster vaccinations at the moment.

NHS and social care colleagues are working together closely to ensure that front-line health and social care staff are supported to receive the COVID booster jabs they are eligible for, preferably in a convenient setting which maximises uptake of the jab.

For questions about the COVID-19 booster programme, visit: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

Thank you.