

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 27 August 2021

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



Dear colleague,

As the end of the summer holiday period draws near, Hertfordshire's school and college staff, parents and young people are preparing for a safe and happy 'back to school' experience.

A huge amount of planning and preparation is going on behind the scenes to help make the new term a success. I would like to pass on my thanks on behalf of the LRF to everyone involved, from public health experts to school and college staff.

Vaccination roundup

Take-up amongst young people

It's becoming clear that getting vaccinated against COVID is at the top of the list for many of our 16 and 17 year- old residents. As of Friday 27 August, more than 40% of this age group in Hertfordshire have already taken up their vaccination – with some young people attending walk-in vaccination centres with groups of friends or parents and carers.

We would like to see this impressive take-up rate continue, so that the impact of COVID cases in our educational establishments and on the lives of our young people and their families is reduced as far as possible. All newly eligible young people have been written to directly by the NHS and provided with information about how to get vaccinated, as well as advice and answers to frequently asked questions. In our area, all of the venues which are vaccinating this age group are clearly identified on this website: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/>

We are working hard to reach young people and their parents with the vaccination message. Your help to support this effort would be really appreciated – you could either share the web address above, or look out for and share the social media messaging from our Hertfordshire health and care organisations.

Finding a vaccination centre when you are away from home

A national 'grab-a-jab' NHS website has been established to help people to find their nearest walk-in vaccination centre, wherever they are in England. This is a good resource for people who work away from home, or for anyone who wants to get vaccinated while they are on holiday. You can access the website here: [Search - Find a walk-in coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination site \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/search/finding-a-walk-in-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccination-site/)

Health help this bank holiday

On bank holiday Monday, the ways in which we can access health care services are different. If you need help with minor illnesses across the long weekend, your local pharmacist can help you get

the right medicine to relieve your symptoms – they are also a great source of trusted advice on a range of health issues. Local pharmacies are open over the weekend, including some on bank holiday Monday. To find out the opening hours of pharmacies near you across the bank holiday, go to: <https://www.healthierfuture.org.uk/august-bank-holiday>

If you need urgent help, you can contact NHS 111, which is available 24 hours a day, seven days a week by visiting www.111.nhs.uk, or calling 111. They can help you access the most appropriate service for you, and if necessary, can book you an appointment with a doctor or nurse. You are likely to be seen much sooner than if you go to A&E. If you need urgent mental health support call 111 and select option 2 to speak to specially trained staff.

All NHS services continue to be extremely busy. Please share this information and support the people you know to use services wisely and to get any help they need as quickly and efficiently as possible.

Staying safe while you're out and about

Bank holiday weekends are a popular time for get-togethers with family and friends, or attending events, both near and far.

Please remember that COVID is still circulating amongst our communities and take sensible precautions to help limit the spread of the virus. Wearing face masks in crowded places, washing hands with soap often and taking regular rapid or 'lateral flow' tests before meeting up with others are simple ways in which we can all protect each other. To find out more about COVID-19 testing in Hertfordshire, including the availability of testing sites across the long weekend, visit:

<https://www.hertfordshire.gov.uk/about-the-council/news/coronavirus-tests.aspx>

Thank you.