

# Winter Vaccination Programme

Stakeholder Update – 1 December 2021

**This bulletin provides you with an update on the Winter Vaccination Programme across Herefordshire and Worcestershire.**

## Booster Vaccinations

This winter sees the launch of the ‘boost your immunity this winter’ campaign, which encourages those who are eligible to receive their annual flu vaccination and a Covid-19 booster vaccination.

The Covid-19 booster vaccination aims to give people longer-term protection against getting seriously ill from flu and Covid-19 this winter. The Covid-19 booster vaccine is available for free on the NHS for people who fall into any of the [eligible categories](#).

In addition, the Joint Committee for Vaccinations and Immunisations (JCVI) has announced this week that the booster programme will be made available to all adults over 18. This next stage of the rollout has not yet commenced. Announcements will be made providing details of how people will be contacted and when they can start booking as soon as the arrangements are finalised.

In the meantime the booster programme is still focused on those older age groups and those most vulnerable as outlined in the above link. Covid-19 booster vaccine appointments can be booked online via the [National Booking Service](#) (NBS) or by calling 119. Appointments are available across a number of sites in Herefordshire and Worcestershire and we are working hard to increase these numbers each week.

There are also further opportunities for vaccinations through local PCNs (GP practices), Community Pharmacists and eligible patients are being invited by their practice to attend their surgery or PCN clinic to have their vaccination.

While we have already delivered more than 260,000 booster vaccinations across both Herefordshire and Worcestershire, we recognise that there have been challenges in balancing the demand for the Covid-19 booster with the staffing capacity to deliver the booster vaccination to our local population. For

many of you we know that this has meant that these sites have not been available when you have attempted to book your appointment.

We can confirm that we are working hard to improve booster vaccination capacity. Some initiatives that are in development or have been recently implemented to improve capacity include:

- Additional walk-in and bookable appointments are being organised across Herefordshire on the weekends of 4-5 December and 18-19 December offering an extra 3,000 vaccinations (venues to be confirmed and communicated shortly)
- More appointments being made available at a number of pharmacies in Herefordshire
- Increasing the number of daily appointments available at the Three Counties Showground in Malvern
- Offering more walk-in appointments at additional sites in Worcester City from 6 December

Part of the response also includes increasing the number of trained vaccinators to support the programme, and we are continuing to identify additional people to be part of our local response to the pandemic, as detailed below -

## We need your help

We are seeking additional people to come forward to support the vaccination programme. If you are a registered (or recently retired) vaccinator looking for a full-time or part-time role, on a permanent or ad-hoc basis, please get in contact with our Covid-19 vaccination recruitment team at [hw.recruitment@nhs.net](mailto:hw.recruitment@nhs.net).

Similarly, we are also looking for volunteers to support additional roles such as marshalling people on our sites. Again, this is something you would be interested in please contact [hw.recruitment@nhs.net](mailto:hw.recruitment@nhs.net).

## First and second Covid-19 vaccinations

Anyone over the age of 16 are still encouraged to book their first or second dose of the Covid-19 vaccination if they have not done so already. This offer will remain 'evergreen', meaning that anyone who is yet to have their first or second dose can come forward at any point to receive their vaccinations.

First and second doses can be booked via the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119.

## School vaccinations

All remaining schools across the two counties will have held vaccination clinics before 15 December. If a young person has missed the vaccination offer at their school or would like to attend with a parent or outside of school hours, appointments can be booked via the [National Booking Service](#) or by calling 119. Under 18s must wait 12 weeks after testing positive for Covid-19 before they can receive their vaccination

**More information on the Covid-19 vaccine can be found on the [NHS England website](#).**

## **Flu vaccinations**

Included within the 'boost your immunity this winter' campaign is encouraging people to receive their yearly flu jab if they are eligible. The flu vaccination is available at many pharmacies, GP practices and maternity clinics. More information on the vaccination and who is eligible for the free NHS flu vaccination on the [NHS England website](#).

I will continue to keep you updated as this latest phase of our Winter Vaccination Programme develops over the coming weeks

Kind regards

**Scott Parker**  
Covid-19 Vaccination Programme Director

If you have any queries please contact [hw.comms@nhs.net](mailto:hw.comms@nhs.net)