

Coronavirus Vaccination in Devon

Briefing #35 – 3 September 2021

Key messages

- Being double vaccinated halves the risk of Long Covid, significantly reduces the likelihood of being hospitalised and reduces the severity symptoms according to a [study by King's College London](#)
- JCVI has issued [advice](#) on a third dose for people who are severely immunosuppressed
- Devon, Plymouth and Torbay have been designated Enhanced Response Areas due to high covid rates
- More than 1.75m doses of the Covid-19 vaccine have been given in Devon
- 9 in 10 over 16s have had their first dose and 4 in 5 have had their second
- Between 8 December and 29 August **922,860** first doses have been given while **828,182** second doses have been given; a total of **1,751,042** doses.
- Details of walk-in clinics are being regularly shared on NHS Devon CCG's social media pages. You can find your nearest walk-in clinic on NHS England's [site finder here](#).
- You can book an appointment [online](#) or by calling 119
- The Devon Vaccine Support Team can support carers who can't leave the person they care for or those who can't use the national booking system because they aren't registered with a GP. Contact: d-ccg.devonvaccinationsupport@nhs.net / 01752 398836

Enhanced Response Areas – what does it mean?

- Devon, Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly have some of the highest case rates in the country and have been designated Enhanced Response Areas.
- The government is working with local authorities in areas which need an enhanced response to COVID-19 to avoid the NHS facing unsustainable pressure.
- Enhanced Response Areas will receive additional support, such as surge testing and logistical resources to maximise vaccine uptake, for a five-week period
- Local authority pop up testing vehicles recently expanded to also offer vaccinations and are now covering a wider area to target people who are harder to reach
- People can do their bit by getting vaccinated, having both doses if they are 18 or over, maintaining social distancing and good hygiene, by meeting outside or in well ventilated areas indoors and by wearing face masks indoors in public places.
- Read [Devon County Council](#), [Plymouth City Council](#), [Torbay Council](#) and [NHS Devon CCG's](#) guidance.

JCVI advice on third dose for immunosuppressed people

- JCVI has issued [advice](#) on a third dose for people who are severely immunosuppressed.
- This third dose should be offered to people over 12 who were severely immunosuppressed at the time of their first or second dose, including those with leukaemia, advanced HIV and recent organ transplants. These people may not mount a full response to vaccination and therefore may be less protected than the wider population.
- This offer is separate to any potential booster programme. The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is still deliberating the potential benefits of booster vaccines for the rest of the population and is awaiting further evidence to inform this decision.

Double vaccination halves risk of Long COVID

- Adults who have received a double vaccination are **49% less likely to have Long COVID** should they contract a COVID-19 infection according to a [study by King's College London](#).
- The study, published in The Lancet Infectious Diseases, found that in the unlikely event of catching COVID-19 after being double vaccinated, the risk of Long COVID was reduced by almost half. There were also **fewer hospitalisations (73% less likely) and lower burden of acute symptoms (31% less likely)** among those fully vaccinated.
- The nature of the most common symptoms were similar to unvaccinated adults – e.g. anosmia, (loss of smell) cough, fever, headaches, and fatigue.
- All these symptoms were milder and less frequently reported by people who were vaccinated, and they were half as likely to get multiple symptoms in the first week of illness. Sneezing was the only symptom which was more commonly reported in vaccinated people with COVID-19.

Risk of rare blood clotting higher for COVID-19 than for vaccines

- [A study](#) led by the University of Oxford has found the risk of a blood clot or stroke is much higher with a covid infection than following vaccination.
- Their findings suggest the risk of thrombocytopenia – a condition where the patient has a low count of cells, known as platelets, that help the blood clot – in someone with coronavirus is almost nine times higher than in someone who has had one dose of the AstraZeneca jab.
- The scientists found an association between those vaccinated with the Pfizer jab and an increased risk of stroke, but the risk was more than 10 times greater in those with the virus.

Support the health and care system by getting vaccinated

- Devon's health and care system remains under pressure.
- High Covid rates and high demand for services are impacting on staffing and service provision. People face long waits in emergency departments (ED), delays in being discharged and postponed operations.
- Members of the public are being urged to support the NHS by getting vaccinated, maintaining social distancing, using services appropriately and picking up friends or family promptly when they are ready to be discharged from hospital

Government launches UK-wide antibody programme

- A new programme has been launched to find out more about how much natural protection people get from having had COVID-19.
- Adults testing positive for coronavirus with a PCR test will be able to opt in to the programme and given two home antibody tests, which involve a simple finger prick.
- The first one would have to be done as soon as possible after a positive PCR test result, before the body has time to generate antibodies to the infection. And the second finger prick test would be taken 28 days later. Both will measure the antibody response over that period.
- Up to 8,000 antibody tests per day will be given as part of the programme, which is run by the UK Health Security Agency, working alongside NHS Test and Trace services in the UK.

Top tips for supporting young people during vaccination

- Getting vaccinated can be daunting for some people, particularly children and young people. They may be anxious, scared or needle phobic.
- [This resource](#) provides some tips and techniques for supporting them whilst they are receiving their vaccination.

Vaccination of 16/17 year olds

- The walk-in coronavirus (COVID-19) [vaccination site finder](#) has been revised to enable people to search by postcode for vaccination sites offering walk-in vaccinations for those aged 16 years to 17 years 8 months to support first dose vaccination for that group.
- In Devon you can get your vaccine by attending a walk-in session at a Devon Vaccination Centre or GP led Vaccination Service
- Those who are 3 months away from their 18th birthday can either attend a walk-in session or book via the [National Booking System](#) or 119 if they are registered with a GP.

From 11 November all staff entering a care home need to be vaccinated unless exempt

- Following the publication of Department of Health and Social Care [\(DHSC\) operational guidance](#), NHS England has [published a letter and](#)

[FAQs](#) on how this new regulation will be delivered operationally. All relevant providers of NHS-funded services will need to:

- actively support staff to have their **first COVID-19 vaccine by 16 September** (as eight weeks is required between the two doses)
- carry out proactive workforce planning to ensure:
 - only staff who are vaccinated, or exempt, are deployed to a care home from 11 November
 - service provision is not disrupted once this regulation comes into force
- ensure that relevant staff can demonstrate to care home staff, via the NHS COVID pass service, that they have either had two doses or are exempt.
- The [FAQs](#) Mobile testing units to also deliver vaccinations will be updated regularly, to support systems and providers to implement this new regulation.

Please complete our outreach vaccination survey

- We know there are still people across Devon who have not yet had their Covid-19 vaccination.
- As part of the NHS's vaccination outreach programme, we are working in partnership with local leaders and community representatives to support everyone to have the vaccination.
- We are encouraging community groups, leaders and organisations to take part in [this short survey](#) designed to help understand barriers and how we can work with communities to address them.
- Responses are strictly confidential.
- For more information contact: Outreach Involvement Manager Aggie Szpinda agnieszka.szpinda@nhs.net

Vaccination data for Devon

- 922,860 people in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 29 August, vaccination [data published](#) by NHS England and NHS Improvement shows, broken down as follows:

Age group	Number of 1st doses given	Number of 2nd doses given	Approx % of age group received at least one dose*	Approx % of age group received both doses
80+	76,640	75,077	95% or above for people aged 50 and over	90% or above for people aged 50 and over
75-79	58,458	57,973		
70-74	77,503	76,756		
65-69	72,131	71,179		
60-64	79,153	76,547		
55-59	85,663	83,420		
50-54	80,864	78,598		

45-49	66,465	63,324	89.6%	85.4%
40-44	59,336	55,454	96.2%	89.8%
35-39	59,764	52,615	91.2%	80.3%
30-34	59,127	48,286	89.6%	73.2%
25-29	53,941	37,910	77.8%	54.7%
18-24	78,879	48,238	78.6%	48.0%
Under 18	14,906	2,805	6.6%	1.2%
Total (% 16+)	922,860	828,182	92.4%	82.9%

Resources supporting uptake in pregnant women

- RCOG: [Information sheet to aid decisions on having the vaccine](#)
- RCM: [Guidance for pregnant women](#) [Conversation guide for midwives](#)
- Press release: [Chief midwife urges pregnant women to get NHS COVID jab](#)
- [Letter from Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent, Matthew Jolly and Jonathan Leach](#), on providing antenatal advice around vaccination in pregnancy.
- COVID-19 Vaccination in Pregnancy Masterclass for Midwives [slides](#)
- [PHE's resources](#), including a leaflet and poster on vaccination in pregnancy. [4 Posters](#) product code: COV2021PG [Social media cards](#) product code: COV2021PGS

Other resources supporting vaccine uptake

- [COV2021YP](#) What to expect after your Covid-19 vaccination-young people
- [COV2021WYP](#) Covid-19 vaccination for children and young people. This COVID-19 vaccination simple text guide for children and young people should be given to all eligible patients at higher risk of COVID-19.
- Translated government guidance on COVID-19 Tests has been [updated](#)
- Resources and facts about COVID-19 from the British Society for Immunology are available in [Arabic, Spanish and Yiddish](#). More languages will be added soon.
- A Translated [animation](#) from Doctors of the World has been created in 12 languages on GP registration and COVID-19 vaccination explaining how people can register with a GP without the need for documentation, and how to book vaccine appointments.
- On 5 July NHS Devon CCG held a live public webinar to address people's concerns about fertility, pregnancy and breast feeding. You can watch it back [here](#)
- Video resources to support the uptake of the vaccine in Black African, Black African Caribbean and Asian communities have been produced and are available to use and share:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OCSameEcCil>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TO7LKJWIFJU&t=87s>

- Information videos in BSL have been updated and can be [downloaded](#)
- The government has published [easy read leaflets](#) on the Covid-19 vaccination, what to expect afterwards and information for women who are pregnant, planning a pregnancy or breastfeeding in 21 languages.
- The Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust, which runs the vaccination centre at Greendale, has published a series of short films that encourage younger people to take up the COVID-19 vaccination. The short films can easily be shared across social media platforms:

<https://vimeo.com/565226035>

<https://vimeo.com/565218682>

<https://vimeo.com/565364321/cc0401ceb0>

<https://vimeo.com/565507498/ed95efe984>

Other important information

- Public Health England's infection prevention control guidelines and hospital visiting guidance for health settings remain in place for all staff and visitors. **This means everyone accessing or visiting healthcare settings must continue to wear a face covering and follow social distancing rules.**
- Carers who would like to have their Covid-19 vaccination but cannot leave those that they care for can access help to get their vaccination through the Devon Vaccine Support Team at d-ccq.devonvaccinationsupport@nhs.net / 01752 398836. The team can also assist people who aren't registered with a GP and can't book through the National Booking Service.

Further information

For more information on vaccination and the health and care response to COVID-19, click on www.togetherfordevon.uk/priorities/coronavirus-covid-19 or the [NHS website](#).

ENDS