

Coronavirus Vaccination in Devon

Briefing #50 – 20 December 2021

Key messages

- All adults can now have their booster dose 3 months after their second dose and the NHS is working hard to offer every eligible adult a booster by the end of the year.
- The CCG is working with GPs, Community Services and Vaccine Centres to vaccinate people who are housebound by Christmas
- Between 8 December 2020 and 12 December 2021 **973,122** first doses have been given in Devon while **904,812** second doses have been given and **486,736** third and booster doses. A total of **2,365,868** 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](#). Appointments can be booked via the [National Booking System](#)

Eligible adults to be offered the booster before January

- Following the government [announcement](#) that all eligible adults are to be offered the booster by the end of the year, capacity has been increased across Devon through additional pop up clinics, extended hours and additional vaccinations carried out by GPs and pharmacists.
- Across the south west the target was for 525,000 vaccinations to be carried out in the first week after the announcement. This target was exceeded with 555,000 doses given.

Omicron cases by lower tier local authority

- The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) is publishing [updates](#) on cases of the Omicron variant by lower tier local authority.

Lower Tier Local Authority	Omicron case numbers
East Devon	7
Exeter	42
Mid Devon	53
North Devon	33
Plymouth	130
South Hams	67
Teignbridge	53
Torbay	42
Torridge	8
West Devon	7
Total	442

Pregnant women urged to come forward for COVID-19 vaccination

- The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) is calling on all pregnant women to get vaccinated as soon as possible.
- There is growing evidence showing that women who are pregnant are at increased risk of serious consequences from coronavirus (COVID-19) and as a result, they should be considered a clinical risk group within the COVID-19 vaccination programme.
- Given that the majority of pregnant women who have been admitted to hospital with severe COVID-19 are unvaccinated, the key priority is to increase the number of pregnant women completing their primary course (2 vaccine doses 8 weeks apart).
- Recent data published by the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) adds to the existing international evidence, which has not identified any safety concerns of vaccinating women during pregnancy.
- Additional efforts focused on improving vaccine uptake amongst pregnant women will require a coordinated response from professional groups including midwifery, charities and support from local community leaders.
- Pregnant women who have completed their primary vaccine course should book their COVID-19 booster if they had their second vaccine dose at least 3 months earlier.

15 minute wait suspended for most patients

- Up until now, people receiving the Moderna or Pfizer vaccines have been asked to wait for 15 minutes before leaving the vaccination centre. This was because the rate of serious allergic reactions (anaphylaxis) reported after these vaccines is slightly higher (around 5 to 10 per million doses) than after other vaccines (normally 1 per million).
- Due to the Omicron variant, the booster programme for adults is being accelerated. As part of this, and given the very low rate of anaphylaxis, the 15 minute wait has been suspended, as we now have much more experience with giving these vaccines to millions of people. People are not normally observed for 15 minutes after other vaccinations.
- The change has been advised by the Chief Medical Officer, and has the support of the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) and the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).
- If people have a history of allergies, particularly to other vaccines, or had an immediate reaction after previous doses, they may be advised to stay for the 15 minutes. Patients should inform the vaccination centre. Note that a family history of allergies (or even anaphylaxis) is not a risk factor.
- Patients should also mention if they have previously fainted following vaccination.

- Otherwise they will be able to leave the centre straight after their vaccine as long as they feel well, although they must not drive for 15 minutes after the vaccine due to the risk of fainting.

Increased car parking at Greendale vaccination site



- A 3 lane slip road has been built at Greendale vaccination site to improve traffic flow through the site and reduce congestion on the approach road.
- It creates a separate entrance and exit to the site and allows more of the existing car parking space to be utilised.
- Work started overnight on Wednesday ready for use by Monday

100,000 doses by NDHT team at Barnstaple Leisure Centre



- Staff and volunteers at the vaccination centre in Barnstaple are pulling out all the stops to make sure no-one misses out on getting protected from the Omicron COVID-19 variant.
- On Friday the team from Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust (NDHT) delivered their 100,000th vaccination. This almost marks a year since the team first started vaccinating at the hospital hub at North Devon District Hospital.
- The vaccination team at the North Devon Leisure Centre have extended opening times and are now delivering four times as many vaccinations as they did in October. They are currently vaccinating around 2,500 people per day, and this is set to increase even further.

Letter for unpaid carers to avoid long queues for vaccination

- Government today (Friday 17.12.2021) has taken steps to ensure that unpaid carers can use [a specific letter](#) to identify themselves to gain priority for the booster jabs for COVID-19 along with paid care workers, if there are long queues.
- Carers should print it out and take it with them, or save it onto a device that they have with them.

Which vaccine for the booster dose?

- The guidance on the management of patients with a history of allergy has been updated since the beginning of the vaccine campaign with very few people now being contra-indicated to the mRNA vaccines.
- There are **very few patients who require an AstraZeneca booster even if they were recommended this as their primary course.** Please review patients in line with the [Greenbook information](#) before referring them for an AstraZeneca booster.
- Where mRNA vaccines are not suitable **for clinical reasons**, vaccination with AstraZeneca vaccine may be considered in those who received AstraZeneca vaccine in the primary course.

Process for third primary doses

- The third primary dose is for patients who were severely immunosuppressed when they received their first or second dose and consequently will not have reached the same levels of immunity as others will after two primary doses. **This is separate to booster doses.**
- Eligible patients can be identified by either their GP or their hospital consultant and issued a letter demonstrating their eligibility so they can attend a walk-in session at a vaccine centre, GP-led site, pop up clinic or community pharmacy. [Further guidance is available here.](#)

Vaccination data for Devon

- 2,365,868 doses have been given between 8 December 2020 and 12 December 2021, vaccination [data published](#) by NHS England and NHS Improvement shows:

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+	78,199	77,712	95% or above for people aged 50 and over	90% or above for people aged 40 and over
75-79	60,863	60,533		
70-74	76,828	76,360		
65-69	72,660	72,014		

60-64	80,220	79,016		
55-59	86,440	85,133		
50-54	80,770	79,309		
45-49	65,665	63,948	91.6%	
40-44	60,922	58,728	97.0%	
35-39	61,537	58,383	93.1%	88.4%
30-34	61,621	57,132	90.6%	84.0%
25-29	56,565	51,371	83.5%	75.8%
18-24	85,223	76,226	84.9%	76.0%
16-17	18,104	8,947	75.1%	37.1%
12-15	27,505	n/a	52.7%	n/a
Total	973,122	904,812	91.9% (12+)	89.9% (16+)

Age Group	Number of booster and 3rd doses given	Approx % of age group received booster or 3rd dose
80+	70,100	86.7%
75-79	56,448	97.4%
70-74	69,953	87.2%
65-69	61,992	82.7%
60-64	58,562	72.6%
55-59	54,559	62.2%
50-54	43,835	52.1%
45-49	21,771	30.4%
40-44	16,072	25.6%
Under 40	33,444	n/a
Total	486,736	

Managing challenging behaviour at vaccination sites

- Staff and volunteers may find the free [ACT security e-learning course](#) helpful.
- Anyone needing additional support after experiencing abuse or harassment can contact the [Devon Wellbeing Hub](#).

Other important information

- [Analysis by the UK Health Security Agency](#) in women giving birth has reinforced international evidence that COVID-19 vaccines have good safety record in pregnant women.
- UKHSA have extended the deferral period for under-18s who have had a positive Covid test from 4 weeks to 12 weeks **as a precautionary measure** after review of the latest clinical data by JCVI. 12-17 year olds at higher risk (with underlying conditions, unpaid carers, household contacts of immunosuppressed, or health and social care workers)

vaccination should still proceed from around four weeks after a confirmed COVID infection.

- **All health and social care staff are being encouraged to inform their employer or HR department** if they have received their booster elsewhere or via the national booking system to support the collation of data.
- St John Ambulance can provide support for boosters in care homes. [More details here](#), support can be requested by [via this form](#)
- People can apply for a COVID Pass medical exemption, by phoning 119 and asking for an application form; which will be posted if they are eligible. [Find out more about COVID Pass medical exemptions on the government's website.](#)
- The School Age Immunisation service is run by Virgin Care who will manage any queries and can be contacted on 0300 247 0082 or VCL.immunisations@nhs.net
- People who need support to have their Covid-19 vaccination can access help through the Devon Vaccine Support Team at d-ccg.devonvaccinationsupport@nhs.net / 01752 398836

Resources supporting uptake

- Supporting people with [a learning disability or autism](#)
- RCOG: [Information sheet to aid decisions on having the vaccine](#)
- RCM: [Guidance for pregnant women](#) [Conversation guide for midwives](#)
- 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
- [COV2021YP](#) What to expect after your Covid-19 vaccination-young people
- [COV2021WYP](#) Covid-19 vaccination for children and young people
- 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](#) in 12 languages on GP registration and COVID-19 vaccination.

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](#).