

COVID community update – 22 October 2021

Dear volunteer coordinators and parish councillors

You may have watched Wednesday evening's press briefing with Health Secretary Sajid Javid in which he warned that the daily cases of COVID-19 rose 16% in the past week and predicted that they could rise to 100,000. He drew attention to the fact that the last time cases were this high, many more people needed hospital treatment and there was higher mortality. He highlighted the link between COVID-19 vaccinations and the now lower numbers of hospitalisations and deaths, and encouraged people who haven't yet had the full course of COVID-19 vaccination to do so.

Adults who have only had their first dose are eligible for the second dose eight to 12 weeks after the first; adults who have had their first two doses are eligible for the booster dose six months after the second one (as long as they are in cohorts 1-9). There are reminders below on how people can access different doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

COVID briefing for community groups: 8 November

On Monday 8 November, from 6-7pm, we will be holding our next virtual COVID briefing for community groups via a Zoom Webinar. We have not held a virtual community briefing for a number of months but, with rates increasing and the winter and Christmas periods approaching, it is the perfect time to take stock.

Updates will be given on:

- Rising transmissions and what that means for us all, with Jyoti Atri, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Director of Public Health
- Support for businesses
- How groups plan to help their community this Christmas, sharing ideas
- New funding from Government for those in greatest need this winter
- How communities are now looking beyond the pandemic at community action and how we can help

[Please join using this link](#). There will be plenty of opportunity for Q&A during the webinar. We are happy for you to share this link to anyone who you feel would be interested.

People with COVID-19 symptoms should isolate and get tested

A reminder that testing is available to any member of the public (over the age of five) with symptoms. Just visit nhs.uk/coronavirus or dial 119 to pre-book or order your PCR test.

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's Clinical Commissioning Group: updates on vaccination

A reminder that all vaccination sites that people can attend, for first or second doses, are listed on the 'Vaccinators on Tour' website: www.thevaccinators.co.uk. This includes

information about whether sites are by appointment only or “drop-in”. Everybody aged 16 and over can have their second dose from eight to 12 weeks after their first dose and vaccinations will not be given any earlier unless there is a clinical reason to do so.

Third doses of COVID-19 vaccine

A third primary dose (not to be confused with ‘booster doses’) is being offered to people aged 12 and over 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. The specialists involved in their care should advise on whether the patient fulfils the eligibility criteria and on the timing of any third primary dose. Eligible patients will be contacted and be offered a vaccination.

Booster doses

Booster doses are available to people in priority cohorts 1-9, at least six months after their second dose. The NHS is contacting patients when it’s their turn and people can use the national booking system to make an appointment.

COVID-19 booster vaccine and flu vaccine

Most people who can get a COVID-19 booster vaccine are also eligible for the annual flu vaccine. If you are offered both vaccines, it’s safe to have them at the same time.

We will send a further community update when there is useful information to share.

Thank you again for all your support.

Best wishes

Bill Handley

Lead Cabinet Member for Community Resilience, Health and Wellbeing
South Cambridgeshire District Council