

Coronavirus Vaccination in Devon

Briefing #31 – 6 August 2021

Key messages

- **People aged 16-17 will be offered a COVID-19 vaccination** as part of the national programme further to updated [advice](#) from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation.
- 903,797 people in Devon received a first vaccine dose up to 1 August while 747,955 second doses have been given a total of 1,651,752 doses.
- More than three quarters of 18–24-year-olds in Devon have had their first dose and more than 1/5 have had both.
- 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
- Since offering the first dose in December, the NHS has averaged almost 10 million doses given each month.
- Over 72 million doses have been delivered in total in England; with over 32 million people have received a second dose, meaning more than over 70 per cent of the adult population has now been fully vaccinated.
- A [letter](#) published on 30 July urges all healthcare professionals to proactively encourage pregnant women to get vaccinated, detailing how to make every contact count for maternity and primary care service staff.

Phase 3 (people aged 16-17) of the vaccination programme

- Health and Social Care Secretary [Sajid Javid has](#) accepted [advice](#) from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation to offer COVID-19 vaccinations to those aged 16 and 17.
- The NHS has now [written to local systems](#) to confirm actions for GP-led local vaccination services, confirming that they can now offer vaccinations to 16-17-year-olds. GP-led local vaccination services will now be assessing the guidance and putting in place the appropriate measures to make sure vaccines can be administered safely.
- In the last few weeks, there have been large changes in the way COVID-19 has been spreading in the UK, particularly in younger age groups. The adult vaccine programme has progressed very successfully and more safety data has become available, so it was important to review the advice for the vaccination of children and young people.
- At this time, JCVI advises that all 16-17-year-olds should be offered a first dose of Pfizer-BNT162b2 vaccine. Pending further evidence on effectiveness and safety in this age group, a second vaccine dose is anticipated to be offered later to increase the level of protection and contribute towards longer term protection. This is in addition to the existing

offer of two doses of vaccine to 16–17 year olds who are in ‘at-risk’ groups.

- Updated JCVI guidance published on 19 July advised children and young people aged 12 years and over with specific underlying health conditions that put them at risk of serious COVID-19 or who are household contacts of persons (adults or children) who are immunosuppressed, should be offered two doses of the Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination.
- The letter to systems also says the National Booking Service [website](#) and 119 phonenumber are being updated to allow bookings. If you want to use the service and it hasn't been updated, keep trying until it is.

Vaccination and pregnancy

- COVID-19 infection in pregnancy carries a significant risk of hospital admission and a higher risk of severe illness than for the non-pregnant population – and a higher risk of preterm birth.
- Hundreds of thousands of pregnant women remain unvaccinated.
- A [letter](#) published on 30 July urges all healthcare professionals to proactively encourage pregnant women to get vaccinated, detailing how to make every contact count for maternity and primary care service staff.
- Since 16 April, the JCVI has recommended that pregnant women should be offered the Pfizer or Moderna COVID-19 vaccines alongside the general population. The Royal College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology (RCOG) and the Royal College of Midwives (RCM) now recommend vaccination as one of the best defences against severe infection. In spite of this, vaccine hesitancy has been high among pregnant women.

Plymouth's Kirsty urges other pregnant women to get the jab

- A Devon mum-to-be who recently caught COVID-19 is encouraging other pregnant women to have the vaccine to protect themselves and their babies. Watch Kirsty's story by [clicking here](#) or on the picture.
- England's top midwife [is also urging](#) expectant mums to get the COVID-19 vaccine after new data shows the overwhelming majority of pregnant women hospitalised with the virus have not had a jab.
- Since May, almost all (98%) pregnant women admitted to hospital with COVID-19 had not been jabbed. In contrast, just three women had been admitted after having their first vaccine while none who had had both doses had been admitted.



Guidance on vaccination of people working in care homes

- [DHSC has now published operational guidance](#) to support the regulations that come into force on 11 November 2021. The 16-week grace period for all care home workers began on 22 July. This means that, to meet the date the regulations come into force, workers have to have their first vaccinations no later than 16 September 2021. The guidance is lengthy but has separate sections for local authorities, registered persons, staff, residents and their families and visiting professionals.
- DHSC Director, Claire Armstrong has written [a letter](#) to local authority chief executives, directors of adult social services, care home providers and care home managers to accompany the guidance.
- The CQC has also [published a statement](#) on its role in relation to mandatory vaccination of people working/deployed in care homes. The CQC says the requirement for vaccination will become part of the fundamental standards and enforced in appropriate cases. They will not begin monitoring until it becomes a duty in November. They will continue to use their existing assessment and enforcement policies and take a proportionate approach.

'Fully vaccinated are three times less likely to be infected'

- The Latest REACT-1 study findings show COVID-19 infection rates are three times lower for double vaccinated people
- The findings covering 24 June to 12 July from Imperial College London and Ipsos MORI show fully vaccinated people were three times less likely than unvaccinated people to test positive for COVID-19.
- However, ministers are urging caution as society opens up, with some fully vaccinated people still able to test positive
- The study shows infections have increased four-fold compared to the last report in late May, with 1 in 160 people infected, although growth appeared to be slowing. [Full details here](#).

Impact of the vaccination programme

- The vaccination programme has already substantially reduced the risk from severe COVID-19 in the UK population.
- The latest national coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine surveillance [report](#) updated on 29 July, estimates the programme has averted approximately 22 million infections and 60,000 deaths to date in England.

Vaccination data for Devon

- 903,797 people in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 1 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+	77,218	75,587	95% or above for people aged 55 and over	90% or above for people aged 50 and over
75-79	58,580	58,040		
70-74	77,570	76,768		
65-69	72,116	71,056		
60-64	79,025	76,280		
55-59	85,421	82,901		
50-54	80,592	77,949	94.8%	
45-49	65,963	61,415	88.9%	82.8%
40-44	58,795	52,323	95.2%	84.8%
35-39	58,712	41,605	89.6%	63.5%
30-34	57,560	32,048	87.3%	48.6%
25-29	51,841	18,958	74.8%	27.4%
18-24	75,565	21,254	75.3%	21.2%
Total (18+)	903,797	747,955	92.2%	76.5%

Vaccination/Travel updates

- Further [changes to travel restrictions](#) have been made this week.
- For the latest information, [click here](#).

Resources supporting vaccine uptake

- 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](#)
- Share a [Covid-19 video](#) on TikTok and Instagram produced by a Plymouth Marjon University student and Devon CCG.
- South West sports stars and celebrities are encouraging people to “Get it Done” and have their Covid-19 vaccination as soon as possible to protect themselves, their loved ones and their local community. The video files can be found [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](#)
- Public Health England explainer videos:
 - [For health and care workers](#)

- [On pregnancy and fertility](#)
- 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-ccg.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.
- From 16 August, people who have both vaccine doses or are under 18 won't have to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone who has Covid-19. Young people and double vaccinated individuals identified as close contacts will continue to be advised to take a PCR test to detect the virus and variants of concern. Anyone who tests positive following the PCR test will still be legally required to self-isolate, irrespective of their vaccination status.

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](#).

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