

# Coronavirus Vaccination in Devon

## Briefing #22 – 4 June 2021

### Key messages

- **769,059 people** in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 30 May, while 553,204 second doses have been given. This means 1,322,263 doses have been given in Devon. **More than three quarters of adults (aged 16+) in Devon have had at least one dose and over half have had both doses.**
- Pfizer/Biontech has been approved for use in 12-15 year olds by MHRA
- The Janssen vaccine has been approved by the MHRA
- People who will be aged 30 and over on 1 July 2021 are currently eligible to book their vaccination.
- People are being urged to book and turn up to their second dose appointment.
- Two new pharmacy sites are now available through the [National Booking Service](#) in Kingsbridge and Plympton.

### Pfizer/Biontech vaccine approved for use in 12-15 year olds

- An extension to the current UK approval of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine that allows its use in 12- to 15-year-olds has been authorised by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
- This follows a rigorous review of the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccine in this age group by the MHRA and the Government's independent advisory body, the [Commission on Human Medicines](#) (CHM).
- Dr June Raine, MHRA Chief Executive said: "We have carefully reviewed clinical trial data in children aged 12 to 15 years and have concluded that the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine is safe and effective in this age group and that the benefits of this vaccine outweigh any risk."
- People who will be aged 30 and over on 1 July 2021 or in [cohorts 1-9](#) are currently eligible to book their vaccination.

### Janssen vaccine

- The MHRA announced on 28 May that the COVID-19 Vaccine Janssen meets the expected standards of safety, quality and effectiveness. The independent Commission on Human Medicines (CHM) has endorsed the MHRA's decision.
- The single-dose vaccine was shown to be 67% effective overall in preventing COVID-19 infection and 85% effective in preventing severe disease or hospitalisation.

- 20 million doses of the vaccine have been secured for the UK and first deliveries are expected to arrive later this year. The JCVI will provide updated advice for the vaccine before doses become available.

## **Fertility, pregnancy and breastfeeding advice**

- Two videos have been produced for use on social media with women explaining their decision to have the Covid-19 vaccine. These can be [downloaded here](#) and will be uploaded to social media with links to the National Booking Service.
- Latest [government advice](#) on pregnancy, fertility and breastfeeding includes:
- Anyone who has already started vaccination and is offered a second dose whilst pregnant, should have a second dose with the same vaccine unless they had a serious side effect after the first dose.
- There is no need to avoid pregnancy after COVID-19 vaccination. There is no evidence that COVID-19 vaccines have any effect on fertility or your chances of becoming pregnant.
- The JCVI has recommended that the vaccines can be received while breastfeeding. This is in line with recommendations from the USA and the World Health Organization.

## **People urged to have second doses**

- The NHS in Devon is reminding people how vital it is to have both doses of the Covid-19 vaccination to get the best protection from the virus and circulating variants; including the so called Indian and Kent variants.
- The number of people in Devon not attending their second appointment has risen in recent weeks.
- A recent study by Public Health England looked at the effectiveness of the vaccines against the so called Indian (now renamed Delta) and Kent (Alpha) variants of the virus and found that after the second dose, the protection offered by both vaccines to the variants increased significantly.

## **Two new pharmacy vaccination sites added**

- Two new vaccination sites have opened at pharmacies in Devon and can be booked through the [National Booking Service](#).
- Well Plympton and Well Kingsbridge pharmacies are each able to vaccinate up to 270 people a week.
- There are now seven pharmacies offering vaccinations across Devon. Pharmacy vaccination sites are also running in Exmouth, Brixham, Plymouth, Lynton and Westward Ho.

## **Healthwatch survey on vaccination attitudes**

- A survey of vaccine attitudes was run nationally by Healthwatch between 22 April and 21 May 2021 and will be used to support the vaccine

programme in Devon alongside work by NHS Devon CCG's engagement team on ways to increase uptake in 18-30 year olds.

- The Healthwatch survey found that 96% (1620) of people who had received either one or both doses of the Covid-19 vaccine stated that they had positive experiences at their appointments.
- 23% (157) of those who had only had one dose had concerns about their second appointment. The most common issues related to the potential side effects of the second dose. 57% (89) of people who were concerned had side effects after their first dose and 43% (68) of people were worried about the news around blood clots occurring after receiving the vaccine.
- Of the 140 people who had not already had either one or both doses of the vaccine, 52% (73) stated they would "definitely not" get the vaccine when it was offered to them, and 19% (27) would "probably not." Most reasons cited related to safety issues. These included: long-term risks, blood clots, allergic reactions and questions around immunity.

## Vaccination data for Devon

769,059 people in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 30 May, vaccination [data published](#) by NHS England and NHS Improvement shows, broken down as follows:

Age group	Number of first doses given	Number of second doses given	Approx % of age group received at least one dose*
<b>80+</b>	78,421	76,242	95% or above for people aged 55 and over
<b>75-79</b>	58,779	57,836	
<b>70-74</b>	77,548	76,110	
<b>65-69</b>	71,775	68,682	
<b>60-64</b>	78,183	63,842	
<b>55-59</b>	84,228	54,030	
<b>50-54</b>	79,290	50,855	
<b>45-49</b>	63,559	24,513	
<b>40-44</b>	55,539	19,073	
<b>35-39</b>	48,313	17,181	
<b>30-34</b>	31,649	16,043	
<b>Under 30</b>	41,715	28,797	
<b>Total (16+)</b>	769,059	555,204	76.8%

## Students Q&A session – 9 June

- Plymouth students are being invited to a virtual Q&A on 9 June from 5.30pm to hear the facts about the COVID-19 vaccine.

- The session has been set up to help students cut through the many vaccine myths on social media and make an informed decision, a Zoom session is being hosted by the NHS, Plymouth City Council and the University of Plymouth.
- Attendees will need to [register for the Zoom event](#).

## **Other important information**

- Thousands of volunteers will receive a booster Covid-19 vaccine in a new clinical trial. The Cov-Boost study will trial seven vaccines at 16 NIHR-supported sites. A total of 2,886 participants will be vaccinated from early June.
- People who need to access their Covid-19 vaccination status for travelling abroad can use the free [NHS app](#) or call 119 and ask for a letter to be posted **IF** they are fully vaccinated by the NHS in England, planning to travel in the next 4 weeks to a country that requires evidence of Covid vaccination **AND** cannot access the digital service via the NHS App.
- It is important that we protect all patients and NHS healthcare workers, vaccinated or not, by ensuring that all NHS healthcare workers continue to maintain regular asymptomatic testing and keep following infection prevention and control guidance to stop onward transmission.
- Appointments made through [National Booking Service](#) must be completed fully. When a booking has been confirmed people will be given a booking reference which they need to bring to their appointment.
- Most adults under the age of 40 will be given an alternative to the Oxford-AstraZeneca vaccine due to a link with extremely rare blood clots.
- The National Booking Service has been updated to show sites with appropriate vaccines for pregnant women and those under 40.

## **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](http://www.togetherfordevon.uk/priorities/coronavirus-covid-19) or the [NHS website](#).

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