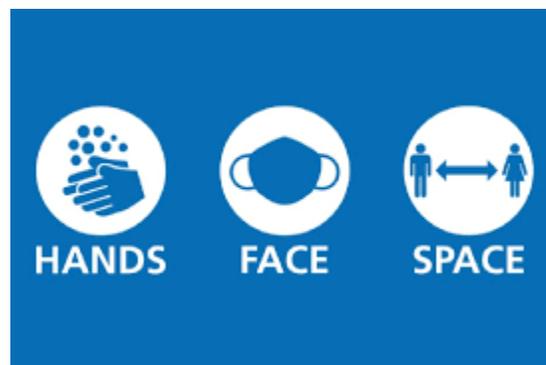


Coronavirus Vaccination in Devon

Briefing #24 – 18 June 2021

Key messages

- People who will be **aged 18** and over on 1 July 2021 are currently eligible to book their vaccination. This means **all adults** are now being offered the vaccine.
- **802,450 people** in Devon received a first vaccine dose, up to 13 June while 625,312 second doses have been given. In total **1,427,762** doses were given.
- **80%** of adults have had their first dose.
- **90%** of people aged over 55 have had both doses.
- Appointments for a second dose of the COVID-19 vaccine are being brought forward from 12 to 8 weeks for the remaining people in cohort 10 (people in their 40s) to ensure priority groups have the strongest possible protection from the Delta variant of the virus at the earliest opportunity possible.
- The UK government is bringing forward regulations requiring people working in CQC regulated care homes in England to have the Covid-19 vaccine.
- Researchers in Devon are recruiting around 150 participants to a world-first clinical trial which assesses the effect of a third 'booster' dose of Covid-19 vaccine.
- Cases of the Delta variant have risen across Devon. Please are being reminded to continue to follow social distancing measures.



Why should I have the vaccine? Information for younger people

- Vaccinated people are far less likely to get COVID-19 with symptoms and pass it on to others and are even more unlikely to get serious COVID-19, to be admitted to hospital, or to die from it.
- Even if you are younger, you can still get seriously ill from Covid, including longer lasting symptoms from 'Long Covid' like severe fatigue.

- Getting vaccinated will help us all get life back to normal by reducing the spread of the virus and protecting your family and friends.
- A [study](#) published by the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change argues that vaccinations clearly provide substantial protection from Covid-19 in general and additional protection from Long Covid specifically. Additional emerging evidence suggests that vaccination also alleviates the symptoms of Long Covid.

Home Park vaccination centre

- We are continuing to work with Plymouth Argyle to ensure that both football games and vaccinations work harmoniously together at Home Park.
- We are constantly flexing our appointment capacity around vaccine supply, take-up and events at Argyle which has been working incredibly well so far and we continue to be grateful to Argyle for hosting us.

British Sign Language videos

- Information videos in BSL have been updated and are [available to download](#)

Compulsory vaccinations for care home staff

- The government is bringing forward [regulations](#) to require all CQC-regulated service providers of nursing and personal care, in care homes in England, to allow entry to the premises only to those who can demonstrate evidence of having had a complete course of an authorised COVID-19 vaccine (or evidence that they are exempt from vaccination).
- The legislation will apply indoors and will exclude residents; friends or relatives of residents who are visiting; persons providing emergency assistance or urgent maintenance work in the care home; and those under the age of 18.
- The policy covers all CQC-registered care homes in England, which provide accommodation for persons who require nursing or personal care, not just those care homes which have at least one person over the age of 65 living in their home.
- The requirement will apply to any professionals visiting a care home, such as healthcare workers, tradespeople, hairdressers and beauticians, and CQC inspectors. The requirement will not apply to people who only work in the outdoor surrounding grounds of care home premises
- Individuals will be exempt from the requirement if they have an allergy or condition that the Green Book lists (COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a) as a reason not to administer a vaccine. Exemptions will also be provided for those entering to assist with an emergency or carrying out urgent maintenance work; those under the age of 18; and clinical trial participants.

Vaccine booster study at former NHS Nightingale Exeter

- Researchers in Devon are recruiting around 150 participants to a world-first clinical trial which assesses the effect of a third 'booster' dose of Covid-19 vaccine.
- The Cov-Boost study will give people a third dose of a vaccine to see whether it offers better protection against the virus than the standard two injections.
- The government funded study is being run at 16 National Institute for Health Research sites, including the former NHS Nightingale Hospital Exeter site, and is being led by University Hospital Southampton NHS Foundation Trust.
- Participants need to be over the age of 70 and given both doses of the Pfizer vaccine before Friday 2 April 2021, or under 70 years of age and given both doses of the Astra Zeneca vaccine before Friday 16 April 2021.
- The [pre-screening questionnaire](#) must be completed before 27 June 2021.

Covid-19 restrictions easing delayed until 19 July

- The Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, announced a delay of up to four weeks to the easing of coronavirus restrictions planned for Monday 21 June.
- Current restrictions, with a few exceptions, remain in place and you should follow the guidance on what you can and cannot do until Monday 19 July.
- The weekly case rate in Devon right now is 16 cases per 100,000. It was seven per 100,000 a week ago. Case rates are currently highest and increasing most rapidly in those aged 20 to 39 years old.
- The more transmissible Delta strain is not the dominant variant in Devon just yet, but it is very likely to become so, just as it is already in many parts of the country.

More volunteers needed

- Volunteers supporting the vaccination programme represent one of the largest mobilisations of volunteers in NHS history and nationally have already completed a staggering 700,000+ shift-hours and counting.
- Due to the duration of the vaccination deployment programme, there is now a renewed need in some areas for additional volunteer support. You can register as a Steward Volunteer [via NHS Volunteer Responders](#).
- The minimum age for volunteers has reduced to 16 for Home Park or Greendale sites. People can volunteer for both through [Our Plymouth](#) website.

Advice for students

- Students can receive their second dose in a different location to their first dose. Appointments can be booked via the [National Booking Service](#) at a convenient location.

- Individuals who aren't registered with a GP and can't book through the National Booking Service can book Covid-19 vaccination appointments through the Vaccine Helpdesk:
d-ccg.devonvaccinationsupport@nhs.net
- Anybody in the UK is eligible for the Covid-19 vaccine for free, regardless of their nationality or immigration status. International students in England can receive the Covid-19 vaccine when their age or clinical risk group becomes eligible.

Vaccination data for Devon

802,450 people in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 13 June, 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+	78,171	76,23	95% or above for people aged 55 and over	approx 90% or above for people aged 55 and over
75-79	58,738	57,984		
70-74	77,559	76,442		
65-69	71,852	70,096		
60-64	78,547	74,175		
55-59	84,605	78,307		
50-54	79,624	70,179	93.7%	82.5%
45-49	64,203	26,167	86.6%	35.3%
40-44	56,489	30,204	91.5%	48.9%
35-39	53,091	19,283	81.0%	29.4%
30-34	47,294	17,939	71.7%	27.2%
25-29	27,403	15,111	39.5%	21.8%
Under 25	24,874	17,272	20.1%	13.9%
Total (16+)	802,450	625,312	80.3%	62.6%

Delta variant

Public Health England's weekly figures on the Delta (Indian) variant at Lower Tier Local Authority level

Local authority area	This week's data	Last week's data
East Devon	6	<5
Exeter	32	9

Mid Devon	7	<5
North Devon	<5	<5
Plymouth	20	6
South Hams	6	<5
Teignbridge	15	<5
Torbay	14	7
Torridge	<5	<5
West Devon	5	0

Other important information

- People who are eligible for a vaccine but have been unable to book through the national booking system or local GP practice can contact the Vaccine Helpdesk by emailing d-ccg.devonvaccinationsupport@nhs.net
- Current advice on Covid-19 vaccinations is that people aged under 40 and pregnant women should have the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.
Consequently, vaccination centres in Devon are now using Pfizer or Moderna vaccines for all first doses.
- 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.

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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