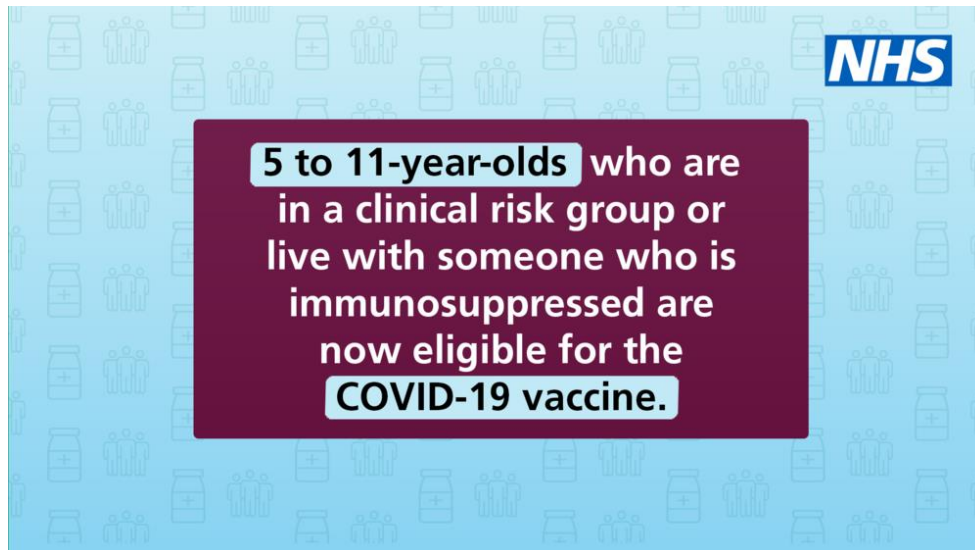


Coronavirus Vaccination in Devon

Briefing #56 – 04 February 2022



Key messages

- The Novavax Covid-19 vaccine has been approved by MHRA
- People who had Covid in December are being reminded to get boosted now, if they haven't already done so.
- The [Covid-19 daily dashboard](#) has been updated to show reinfections
- Regulations on staff vaccinations are due to be revoked, subject to parliamentary approval and a public consultation
- England [returned to "Plan A" Covid-19 measures](#) on Thursday 27 January. However the current infection prevention and control measures will continue in healthcare settings.
- [Restrictions that limit the number of visitors to care homes have eased.](#) There is no limit on the number of visitors allowed at care homes. Self-isolation periods have reduced and care homes will only have to follow outbreak management rules for 14 days, not 28.
- In Devon, a total of **2,675,432** doses were given between 8 December 2020 and 30 January 2022. This includes **986,761** first doses, **928,551** second doses and **757,494** boosters/third doses.
- You can find your nearest walk-in clinic on NHS England's [site finder here](#). Appointments can be booked via the [National Booking System](#)

Novavax COVID-19 vaccine approved by MHRA

- Nuvaxovid, the COVID-19 vaccine developed by Novavax, has been given regulatory approval by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA).
- Nuvaxovid is the fifth COVID-19 vaccine authorised by the UK's independent medicines regulator.

- Health and Social Care Secretary Sajid Javid said: “It is great to see our world renowned medicines regulator approve another COVID-19 vaccine. The next step will be for the independent Joint Committee on Immunisation and Vaccination to consider its use as part of the UK COVID-19 vaccination programme.”

Covid-19 daily dashboard includes reinfections

- UK Health Security Agency has begun including data on possible reinfection episodes in its [coronavirus \(COVID-19\) dashboard](#) – the UK’s main source of information about the virus.
- Positive tests for any variant of COVID-19 within a 90-day time period are now considered part of the same case episode, and positive tests outside those parameters are now considered as reinfection episodes.

Consultation on staff vaccinations

- Regulations making vaccines a condition of deployment for health and social care staff are set to be revoked, subject to public consultation and Parliamentary approval, the [Health and Social Care Secretary has announced](#).
- The government keeps all COVID-19 measures under review. When vaccination as a condition of deployment was introduced Delta was the dominant variant representing 99% of cases. Omicron has now replaced Delta as the dominant variant at 96% of cases.
- NHS England and NHS Improvement has written [this letter](#) outlining the next steps for employers.

Vaccine Ambassadors urge people to get vaccinated



- New [films](#) featuring Devon’s Vaccine Ambassadors are offering encouragement and reassurance to people from communities across the county who are not yet fully vaccinated.
- Feedback from community leaders ahead of the vaccine

rollout suggested that trusted voices would be important in encouraging uptake of the vaccine among diverse communities. As a result, NHS Devon Clinical Commissioning group developed a Vaccine Ambassador programme.

- Devon has 20 Vaccine Ambassadors, recruited from across health and social care, local authorities and charities since March 2021.
- The films can be viewed and shared from [YouTube](#) or [downloaded](#) to share on other social media platforms.

Anti-vax activity at vaccination sites

- There has been an increase in anti vax activity, with attempts to shut down vaccination sites and serve 'legal papers' at some sites.
- NHS England has circulated information that provides assurance that the documents they attempt to 'serve' have no legal standing and staff are at NO risk of any legal action – and that the vaccination programme is completely lawful and has the full backing of the British Government and the British Legal system.
- The threat level has been deemed as low and the vaccination cell is supporting any local sites identified through police intelligence.
- Anyone needing additional support after experiencing abuse or harassment can contact the [Devon Wellbeing Hub](#).

Be S.A.F.E.R

How NHS staff can self-assess conflict situations at vaccination sites:

Step back to protect yourself. By stepping back you will be able to assess what is going on.

Assess the situation. Consider any potential dangers by assessing the Person (P), any dangerous Objects (O) and the Place (P) where the conflict is arising (POP).

Find help. The scale of help needed can depend on the situation. Tell your site manager or if required call emergency services.

Evaluate the options. You may need to completely move away from the situation and let someone with experience manage the situation.

Respond appropriately. Continue assessing the threat being posed and always ask yourself 'do I feel safe?'

NHS urges people who had Covid in December to get boosted

- People who had Covid in December are being reminded to get boosted now, if they haven't already done so.
- In December, millions of people in England tested positive for Covid and would have been unable to get their vaccine for at least 28 days, in line with Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidance.
- Reminder texts are being sent by the NHS this week urging people to come forward and get protected from the virus.

- The latest data from the UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) shows shortly after getting a booster, you are 85% less likely to end up in hospital than if you are unvaccinated.

Plan A Covid-19 measures

- England [moved to “Plan A” Covid-19 measures](#) on 27 January
- Local directors of public health are still able to recommend face coverings in communal areas only in education settings within their area, but only where the department and public health experts judge the measures to be proportionate - this is a temporary measure.
- Infection prevention control guidance **continues to require face coverings be worn in health and care settings**, including primary care and pharmacies;
- It is still a legal requirement for those with COVID-19 to self-isolate for 10 days with the option to end self-isolation after 5 full days following two negative LFD tests.

Vaccination data for Devon

- **2,675,432** doses have been given between 8 December 2020 and 30 January 2022, vaccination [data published](#) by NHS England and NHS Improvement shows. This includes **757,494** boosters/third doses:

Age Group	Number of booster and 3rd doses given	Approx % of age group (not just those eligible) received booster or 3rd dose
80+	73,557	91.0%
75-79	58,809	c100%
70-74	73,887	92.1%
65-69	68,876	91.9%
60-64	73,500	91.2%
55-59	77,862	88.8%
50-54	70,434	83.8%
45-49	54,033	75.4%
40-44	46,835	74.6%
35-39	43,031	65.1%
30-34	38,290	56.3%
25-29	31,380	46.3%
18-24	45,308	45.2%
Under 18	1,692	7.0%
Total	757,494	

Other important information

- 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](#).