

## Covid-19 community update – 22 July 2021

Welcome to this week's community update, on what has been classified as a 'heat-health alert' week. High temperatures are forecast to continue until Friday, and the alert, plus an amber extreme heat warning issued by the Met Office, warns of the increased health risks over a prolonged period of heat. You can find suggestions to help everyone keep safe during a heatwave on the [Public Health England website](#).

We are seeing a sharp rise in the number of cases of coronavirus, and the number of people needing hospital treatment. Note that [60% of people admitted to hospital are unvaccinated](#). Please see below for updates on the vaccination rollout.

Local hospitals are under substantial pressure currently and, in their [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) posts the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group is encouraging people to remember that A&E isn't the only option for out of hours medical support. We can all help them to manage if we use the right service at the right time. They would appreciate any sharing of their posts within your communities at this time.

For those of you who enjoy the heat, I hope you are able to make the most of the good weather to see family and friends outdoors, where the risk of passing on the virus is reduced.

### Vaccination update

#### Cambourne

The walk-in vaccination centre at Cambourne on Sunday was a huge success, with around 400 people vaccinated on the day. Our thanks go to everyone who shared information about the event, and with special thanks to those volunteers who supported it with leafletting and running the clinic on a (very) hot day, including those from Cambourne Crescent and Cambourne Town Council.

It has been confirmed that we will have further walk-in vaccination clinics at The Hub in Cambourne (address The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, CB23 6GW) to help make it easier for residents in the district to access their first and second doses. Please feel free to print out and display or share the attached leaflet in your communities, and look out for our social posts in the coming days to share too. Here are the details:

- Outdoors (mobile van) on Tuesday 3 August, from 1pm to 7pm
- Outdoors (mobile van) on Tuesday 10 August, from 1pm to 7pm
- And indoors at the Hub on Saturday 9 October, from 10am to 4pm (at which anyone who had their first jab at one of the July/August walk-ins will be able to have their second jab).

There are plenty of other walk-in clinic dates and locations – visit [The Vaccinators website](#) for the latest information. Alternatively, it's really easy to book an appointment at a convenient time and location through the [national booking service](#).

### **All adults can get their second dose after eight weeks**

All adults in the UK can [get their second doses after eight weeks](#), meaning every adult has the chance to have both doses by mid-September. People are urged to get their first and second doses as soon as possible to protect themselves and those around them.

### **At-risk young people**

Health and Social Care Secretary, Sajid Javid, this week [accepted advice from the independent Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation \(JCVI\) on offering vaccines to vulnerable young people](#). This means that young people aged 12 to 15 with severe neuro-disabilities, Down's Syndrome, immunosuppression and multiple or severe learning disabilities will be eligible for vaccination soon. The advice remains unchanged for vaccinating under-18s without underlying health conditions, however, the JCVI will continue to review any new data. Please note that, locally, the Clinical Commissioning Group (which runs the vaccine programme in our area) has not yet received the guidance on administering the vaccine to this cohort and so appointments are not yet available. However, the CCG is assured of having enough vaccine supply to offer this as soon as they receive the appropriate guidance.

### **NHS COVID Pass**

The [NHS COVID Pass](#), available through [the NHS App](#) (not the specific NHS COVID-19 App), allows you to share your vaccination record or test status in a secure way. Some venues or events using the service can ask you to demonstrate your COVID-19 status via the app. To support businesses using the COVID Pass a new [NHS COVID Pass Verifier App](#) launched this weekend designed to support venues, businesses and those most at risk who would like to verify a person's COVID-19 vaccination status.

### **Expanded winter 2021 flu vaccination programme**

The Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) recently announced that the free seasonal flu vaccine will be made available to more people this year as part of an expanded winter 2021 flu vaccination programme. The school programme is also to be expanded to provide flu vaccines to all secondary school pupils up to Year 11 for the first time. This means that, from September 2021, the flu vaccine will be offered to over 35 million people and will be delivered by the NHS alongside any booster programme for COVID-19 vaccines. [Find out who the flu jab will be available to](#).

### **Summer holiday activities and food programme**

Are you aware of any families who would benefit from attending a FREE holiday scheme over the summer? The [Cambridgeshire Holiday Activity and Food Programme](#), administered

by the County Council, could assist. The programme is aimed at primary and secondary school children who are eligible for benefit-related free school meals and will provide healthy food and enriching, fun activities. During the summer holidays, eligible children will be able to access up to 64 hours at a holiday scheme (usually four lots of 4-hour sessions, for 4-weeks of the holiday – but this may vary with providers) at no cost to their families. The sessions will include a healthy meal, a variety of exciting activities, sports and the opportunity for the child to socialise with other children.

## **Safer public places – managing public outdoor settings**

There is new COVID-19 guidance reflecting the many restrictions that have been lifted at Step 4. The guidance is intended for councils, owners and operators to support the [safe use and management of outdoor public places](#) while the risk of COVID-19 transmission remains. The guidance includes key principles and other information for green spaces, outdoor playgrounds and gyms, and urban centres.

## **Care home visiting guidance update**

The Government has amended guidance resources related to care home visiting. The main change for [visiting arrangements in care homes](#) is the removal of restrictions on the number of visitors allowed; there is now no limit on the number of ‘named visitors’ that a single resident can have and no nationally-set limit on the number who can visit in a single day. For visits out of care homes, [PPE advice has also been clarified](#).

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