

12 February 2021

Together We're Better COVID-19 Stakeholder Update

Last week we administered our 200,000th vaccine in Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent. Our teams across the patch have been working extremely hard, vaccinating and protecting citizens against this virus. It truly is a Herculean effort, particularly by our GPs and our thanks go to everyone involved.

Until now, the NHS has asked people to wait until they are contacted about the vaccine to help ensure that those who are most vulnerable are protected first - and that remains the case for most people.

However, the NHS is now asking people aged 70 and over and clinically extremely vulnerable adults on the Shielded Patients' List who have not been vaccinated yet to come forward and make an appointment.

The easiest way to arrange a vaccination is through the national booking service which can be accessed at www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination.

Anyone unable to book online can call 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm, seven days a week. You can also call your GP if you don't manage to book through either of these recommended routes.

The vaccine is one of the best ways to reduce COVID-19 cases and we want to encourage as many at risk groups as possible to take up the vaccine.

Another extremely important piece of armour we have against the virus remains Hands. Face. Space. This continues to be one of the single most effective ways to reduce the spread of COVID-19. Everyone should continue to cover their face, wash hands regularly and keep a safe distance from others. This applies whether you have had your vaccine or not and will help to keep you and those around you safe.

Getting tested regularly if you have to leave home is also really important. Whether that be to go to work, do essential shopping or visit your support bubble. Regular testing will mean that we can identify people who've got the virus but aren't aware of it. After all, one in three people who have COVID-19 don't get any symptoms at all!

People without symptoms can book a test at [Welcome to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Community Test Sites Appointment System \(zipporah.co.uk\)](http://Welcome to the Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent Community Test Sites Appointment System (zipporah.co.uk)) and the results will be available in about 30 minutes.

People with symptoms or who have been asked to self-isolate should [book a coronavirus test online](#) or by ringing 119 and remain in isolation until you receive your test result.

Until the virus is under control, we must all follow the guidance – it's there to keep us safe.

In Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, we want reassure women that the COVID-19 vaccine will not affect their fertility, it is safe and offers the best protection against the COVID-19 virus.

- There is no evidence that the vaccine affects fertility and those who are trying to become pregnant do not need to avoid pregnancy after vaccination.
- Women who are breastfeeding can receive the vaccine. Whilst there is no data on the safety of COVID-19 vaccines in breastfeeding women and their babies, they are not thought to be a risk and the benefits of breast-feeding are well known.
- Whilst there is no scientific evidence to suggest the vaccine would be harmful to pregnant women and their babies, the vaccines have not yet been tested in pregnancy. For this reason, vaccinations will not be offered to pregnant women routinely. **This is case for most new medicines and vaccines and may change when more data about the COVID-19 vaccination in pregnancy becomes available.**

However, pregnant women in at risk groups may be offered the vaccination, including;

- women with a very high risk of catching the infection; and
- those with a clinical condition putting them at high risk of severe complications.

In these cases, women should discuss vaccination with their doctor or midwife to help them make their decision. They may decide that the benefits of vaccination outweigh the risks of catching the virus.

Additional guidance can be found via the links below:

- [Women of childbearing age, currently pregnant or breastfeeding leaflet](#)
- [Women of childbearing age, currently pregnant or breastfeeding leaflet – large print](#)

If you volunteer or work within your community, and can help encourage the uptake of the vaccine, we have pulled together a [community resource pack](#). This pack includes information and materials about the vaccine programme in various formats and languages. It focusses around the concerns people have shared amongst black, Asian and minority ethnic (BAME) communities, those who live in more deprived areas, and those with sensory disabilities.

You can also help inform the delivery and communication of the vaccination programme within our communities, and ensure consistent and accessible information is available to help people make informed choices to take up the vaccine. If you are interested join the conversation 'Communities 2gether' (previously known as Community Champion Network) for Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent, please email twb.comms@nhs.net.

Vaccine scams continue to threaten our communities, so it is vitally important that we all remain vigilant and understand the risks and signs to look out for. You can see the latest cyber champions tips from Staffordshire Police [here](#).

Articles in this week's COVID-19 bulletin which you can access via [this link](#) include:-

- Third large vaccination site opens near Alrewas
- This week's statistics
- Link to Dr Paddy Hannigan's weekly radio interview

Many of us may be experiencing difficult feelings and emotions about the pandemic. This may be about getting sick, the government restrictions, or feeling hopeless about when the pandemic might end. There are lots of ways to help yourself cope. You can find some ideas to help take care of your mental wellbeing during the coronavirus pandemic by following this link to the [every mind matters website](#).

You can also look after your physical health by joining these online [fitness](#) classes, which allow you to try new exercises at a time that suits you in your home. Whatever your age, ability or fitness level take a look at the [Active My Way website](#) to find the right on-demand class for you.

Useful Resources

A range of assets to target key behaviours and to promote the core message 'Hands. Face. Space' can be downloaded from the [PHE Campaign Resource Centre](#).

An update bringing you links to the latest hard-hitting Stay at Home "Look into their eyes" creative and resources to support those who are delivering surge testing for new variants and those delivering community testing can also be found on the [PHE Campaign Resource Centre](#). You can also find links below to some BBC content for South Asian communities.

- [South African Variant Surge Testing](#)
 - Generic A3, A4 and A5
- [Variant Surge Testing](#)
 - Posters
 - Web Banners
 - Social Statics
 - Digital Screens
- [Community Testing](#)
 - Commercial Cleaners
 - Construction Workers
 - Delivery Person
 - Factory Workers
 - Nursery Teachers
 - Taxi Driver
 - Trade Person
 - Care Workers
 - Retail Assistant
- [Stay Home, Protect the NHS, Save Lives](#)
 - TV ad
- [Ports of Entry and Exit](#)

- International posters
- International travel guidance toolkit
- UK ports – posters
- UK ports – digital screens

National lockdown restriction resources can be found [here](#).

Materials are available for the following campaigns; please can we ask for your help to promote them across your networks:

- British Sign Language resources. The Government has now published British Sign Language (BSL) videos related to the vaccination programme. The leaflets on which these videos are based on are also available to download and paper copies are also available to order.

Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-british-sign-language-resources>

Collection:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme>

Materials: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccination-programme#leaflets,-posters-and-resources>

- Public Health England (PHE) has published [new guidance](#) for everyone to help reduce the risk of catching coronavirus and passing it on to others.
- [Fraud social media](#) and [explainer videos](#)
- [Stay Home](#) – Look into my eyes creative
- [COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [A guide to your COVID-19 vaccination easy read document](#)
- [Various translated resources are now available here](#)
- [Bending the rules costs lives](#)
- [Don't help the virus spread poster](#)
- [Act like you've got it social media animations](#)
- [Hands. Face. Space resources](#)
- [Stay Alert to Stay Safe](#): new youth messaging focusing on 'consequences' - social animations
- [Stay Alert to Stay Safe posters](#): White background easy print for face coverings and distance
- [NHS Test and Trace posters](#): White background easy print for drive through testing and self-isolate
- [NHS COVID-19 App resources](#)
- [Wearing a face mask – translations](#)
(Arabic/French/Kurdish/Lithuanian/Pashto/
Polish/Portuguese/Romanian/Russian/Spanish/Tigrinya)

- [Test and Trace materials](#) are available to use on the Public Health England Campaign Resource Centre. This includes BSL, easy read and large print formats [here](#).
- [Signposting materials](#) with useful information on how people can contact their GP, order repeat prescriptions and manage wellbeing and existing conditions at home: <https://coronavirusresources.phe.gov.uk/nhs-resources-facilities/resources/health-at-home/>
- [Public Health England guide on how older adults can stay active at home during coronavirus to maintain strength and balance](#)
- [Translated information leaflets for parents with new-borns during coronavirus](#)
- [Mental wellbeing whilst staying at home](#)
- [North Staffordshire Combined Healthcare NHS Trust mental health support and advice guide](#)
- [Guidance on shielding](#)
- [Blood donation materials](#)

Public Health England has updated its coronavirus guidance in light of changes to the government's advice and continue to ensure guidance for the public is timely and up to date. All guidance for members of the public, as well as for people in clinical and non-clinical settings, is published and updated regularly on the GOV.UK collection page.

For the latest information on coronavirus, please visit the [NHS](#) and [government](#) websites.

Together We're Better is the partnership of NHS and local government organisations, alongside independent and voluntary sector groups, that is working together to transform health and care services. You can find out more about us on our website: <https://www.twbstaffsandstoke.org.uk/>