

Hertfordshire Local Resilience Forum Stakeholder Update 1 June 2022

A message from Alex Woodman, Executive Director Community Protection & Chief Fire Officer



Dear colleague,

Today is the day that many of us finish work for the long jubilee weekend. I am heartened to see how many street parties are planned across the county. As a system we have supported as many residents as possible to get involved and bring their communities together under happy circumstances.

As far as our services are concerned the long weekend doesn't mean anything stops and I would like to thank all those members of staff who will be keeping everything moving so that others can be safe and well.

Obviously, we need to ensure our residents use services effectively so I would encourage all partner members in the system to share messages from local services, there is some information in this update below.

COVID vaccination update

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidance for autumn covid-19 vaccinations

The JCVI's current view is that in autumn 2022, a COVID-19 vaccine should be offered to:

- Residents in a care home for older adults and staff
- Frontline health and social care workers
- All those 65 years of age and over
- Adults aged 16 to 64 years who are in a clinical risk group

A plan is currently being developed for how these groups will be managed in the autumn.

Vaccination of primary school aged children continued walk-ins over half-term

Over the rest of this half-term and moving forward to the summer there will be plenty of sessions over weekends as well as a variety of pop-ups for 5- to 11-year-olds across Hertfordshire.

Find the walk-in sessions available in and around you on our new district-by-district guide at this address: <https://covid.healthierfuture.org.uk/covid-19-vaccinations-near-you>

More appointment slots are available via the national booking site, nhs.uk/covidvaccine, or you can ring 119 to book an appointment.

Holiday campaign

Earlier in the spring we launched a campaign to target people interested in going abroad on holiday, aged 16-40 living within Hertfordshire. An online digital campaign was chosen as the best way to reach the largest proportion of our target audience, running over Snapchat and the internet using web banner ads. The campaign was showcasing people on holidays with the message: Jobs sorted and holiday ready. This had a call to action to get people to have their COVID vaccines and booster in time for their holidays.

Due to the success of the campaign, we are extending this message into the summer holidays and developing campaign ideas to reach our communities where there is lower vaccine take-up –Black African, Black Caribbean, Bangladeshi and Pakistani. We want to appeal to a multi-generational audience of families travelling to see friends or family abroad for the first time in a couple of years. A focus group has been held to ensure the campaign approach and imagery is relevant and effective and a campaign for this group will be launching soon.

Monkeypox

Monkeypox is a rare illness caused by the monkeypox virus and one of the symptoms is a rash that is sometimes confused with chickenpox. It is usually associated with travel to Central or West Africa but cases have been occurring in England with no travel links.

Monkeypox can be passed on when someone comes into close physical contact with someone with monkeypox. The virus can enter the body through broken skin, the respiratory tract or through the eyes, nose or mouth.

If you test positive for monkeypox, it usually takes between five and 21 days for the first symptoms to appear. Symptoms include recent unexpected/unusual spots, ulcers or blisters anywhere on your body, fever, headaches, muscle aches, swollen glands, chills and exhaustion.

A rash can develop, often beginning on the face, then spreading to other parts of the body. The rash changes and goes through different stages - a bit like chicken pox - before finally forming a scab, which later falls off.

The virus can be passed on if there is close physical contact between people through:

- Kissing, skin-to-skin contact or having sex with someone with the monkeypox rash
- Touching or sharing things like clothing, bedding or towels used by someone with the monkeypox rash
- Touching monkeypox skin blisters or scabs
- The coughs or sneezes of a person with the monkeypox rash

Anyone with concerns that they could have Monkeypox should call NHS 111 or contact a sexual health clinic. Please make sure you contact the clinic ahead of a visit.

UKHSA will post regular updates on [gov.uk](https://www.gov.uk).

Health services Jubilee weekend

With the four-day jubilee bank holiday fast approaching, it is important to know where to go when your GP practice or local pharmacy might be closed.

The good news is that there are pharmacies in every area with longer opening hours, dispensing advice as well as medicines. To find one near you, go to <https://www.england.nhs.uk/east-of-england/nhs-england-and-nhs-improvement-east-of-englands-work/pharmacy-information/>

In general, the best ways to get health help are:

- Visit the NHS website – for advice and information on how to look after yourself and your family. It covers thousands of illnesses and conditions: www.nhs.uk
- Visit www.111.nhs.uk or call 111 – for free, round the clock help when your GP is closed, when it's an urgent but not a life-threatening 999 situation, or if you are unsure where to go to get the right help for your medical condition. If needed, 111 can arrange an urgent appointment for you to see a doctor or nurse at the weekend. They can also connect you directly with mental health support.
- Visit a pharmacist – for expert advice and low-cost medicines to ease your symptoms and help treat your condition. Every area has a late opening pharmacy and most have consulting rooms where you can ask for advice in private. Go to www.nhs.uk to find your nearest open pharmacist.
- Make an appointment with your practice – GP practices have a range of staff to assess and treat many illnesses. This could be the GP or nurse, but might also be a local or practice pharmacist, physiotherapist or other healthcare professional. Call your practice or visit their website, and they'll help you see the person best able to offer care and advice.

Thank you.