

You have hopefully seen the news this week that Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been [granted Enhanced Response Area status by the Government](#) for five weeks from 1 November. This is welcomed by local Public Health colleagues and should mean that additional resources are available to support work to accelerate vaccination and testing programmes; to establish some bespoke measures in settings such as schools (face coverings, reduced visits etc.); or to encourage mask-wearing in public places. Although mask-wearing is encouraged, it will not be required by law.

This status was requested by local Public Health colleagues, with support from local political leaders, in recognition of the above-average COVID-19 case rates across the region, and the pressures currently facing the NHS locally (with local hospitals all at or very nearly at maximum capacity).

The Government is urging local residents to remain cautious and follow the national guidance, including to get vaccinated, wear face coverings in crowded areas such as public transport, meet outdoors where possible and let fresh air into homes or other enclosed spaces. We have received a few requests for any guidance on events due to this news (see item lower in this briefing).

Guidance on local events following the Enhanced Response Area status

Public Health colleagues at Cambridgeshire County Council have provided this advice for event organisers following the move into an Enhanced Response Area.

1. **Legal requirement** - Complete a risk assessment which includes the COVID risks (this can be as part of the normal Health and Safety risk assessment and/or Event Management Plan). For the indoor part of the event, please note any indoor area needs sufficient ventilation. You need to assess the level of ventilation in indoor spaces, as per the [HSE guidance](#), and include that in your risk assessment. A simple ventilation toolkit to assess the ventilation can be found [online](#).
2. As we are now in an **Enhanced Response Area** we strongly recommend:
 - a. that you use the [NHS Covid Pass](#) system as per Government guidance for events
 - b. face coverings to be worn by staff and attendees indoors and in crowded areas outside, on public transport (including for any transport arranged for attendees e.g. coaches, taxis, and/or car sharing)
 - c. set up the event to enable social distancing
 - d. if any attendee show symptoms of COVID, they should not attend
 - e. staff and attendees should carry out lateral flow testing prior to the event and for four to five days after the event.
 - f. the use of the NHS QR code to help trace and stop the spread of COVID

- g. regular and frequent cleaning of high frequency touch points
- h. regular hand washing and the provision of hand sanitisers at all events
- i. make COVID-safe arrangements for any food and drink offered during the event
- j. continued used of COVID-safe messages and posters reminding attendees to take common sense COVID precautions such as wearing face coverings, keeping a social distance, washing hands and so on, including online messaging via the event organiser's website encouraging vaccine uptake (both COVID and Flu vaccines) and COVID testing.

Our Environmental Health Team can clarify any of this advice and answer your questions if needed. Please contact them on env.health@scambs.gov.uk.

Event organisers are also encouraged to contact the Council's [Safety Advisory Group](#) for support in running safe events.

COVID vaccines offered to 12 to 15 year olds at vaccination centres

It is now possible to book appointments for 12 to 15 year olds at some local large scale vaccination centres via the National Booking Service (www.nhs.uk/covidvaccine or by calling 119). You can see in the table below a list of centres with opening times.

This is on an appointment-only basis for 12 to 15 year olds, who must also be accompanied by a parent or guardian when they attend.

Location	Available from 4:30pm to 7:30pm	On Saturdays and Sundays
Horsefair Shopping Centre, Wisbech	Mondays	8:30am to 4pm
Grafton Centre, Cambridge	Tuesdays and Wednesdays	8:30am to 4pm
The Eatons Community Centre, Eaton Socon	Tuesdays	8:30am to 4pm
The Oaktree Centre, Huntingdon	Thursdays	8:30am to 4pm
Queensgate Shopping Centre, Peterborough	Thursdays	8:30am to 4pm

Alternatively, parents and young people can still choose to access the vaccination programme being delivered in schools by Hertfordshire and East Anglia Community School Aged Immunisation Service. The NHS will communicate directly with the parents or guardians of 12 to 15 year olds who are eligible for two doses to explain arrangements for accessing their second dose.

Walk-ins for booster shots

The Government has announced that people can now access a booster shot (when eligible – 182 days after their second dose) via walk-in centres. The local Clinical Commissioning Group is working quickly to scale up staffing to support this in the coming days, and the best place to find the most up-to-date information about which vaccination centres are set-up to offer walk-in booster doses is [the CCG's dedicated vaccination website](#), which is regularly updated.

Guidance on COVID-19 vaccine doses

Attached to this email you can see a graphic provided by Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Clinical Commissioning Group setting out who is eligible for one or two doses; for a booster dose; or for a third primary dose. Please feel free to share this with anyone who would find it useful.

Updated guidance for people previously considered clinically extremely vulnerable

You will all likely be aware that the shielding programme has ended in England. However, we wanted to let you know that the Government has this week updated its guidance to these individuals, with a few [tips that people may wish to consider](#).

Funding

This winter, grants of up to £1,000 for community groups and local non-profit organisations are being offered through the [Arnold Clark Community Fund](#) to help them continue their important work which may be at risk due to the pandemic. The focus for this round is on foodbanks, toy banks, poverty relief, housing and accommodation. [The deadline is 31 December 2021](#).

We will send a further community update when there is useful information to share.

Thank you again for all your support and I hope to see you at our virtual event on Monday.

Best wishes

Bill Handley

Lead Cabinet Member for Community Resilience, Health and Wellbeing
South Cambridgeshire District Council