

## Norfolk and Waveney ICS Stakeholder Briefing – 13 December 2021

### Covid booster programme ramps up across Norfolk and Waveney, in line with the national ambition, to offer booster vaccinations to all adults by the end of December 2021

Following the COVID-19 booster announcement from the Prime Minister last night, the Norfolk and Waveney health and care system is working hard to ensure that everyone over the age of 18 is offered and has their booster, vaccinating from now into January 2022.

This means that **everyone eligible over the age of 30 can book their COVID-19 booster from today**, 13 December 2021 and **those over the age of 18 will be able to book from Wednesday**, 15 December 2021.

To put the challenge into context, we need to deliver 180,000 COVID-19 boosters per week, up until the end of December. Last week was our busiest week so far for COVID-19 booster vaccinations, with a total of 56,000 COVID-19 boosters administered. In order to meet the Government target, more than a threefold ramp up is required.

The decision has been made at NHS Norfolk and Waveney CCG to suspend all routine business, unless it is focused on vaccination or Urgent and Emergency Care. This means that a significant number of staff are now being redeployed to or support delivery of the COVID-19 booster programme.

Teams across Norfolk and Waveney have been in communication with each other over the weekend and plans are already afoot to ensure that thousands more appointments are added to the national booking system at existing sites across the system.

The reduction in the gap between doses and the number of younger people now eligible means thousands more patients are now eligible for a booster vaccine. To manage this immediate and rapid increase in demand for boosters and manage the flow of patients through local vaccinations sites safely, the local health and care system has taken the decision to **temporarily pause all walk-in booster vaccination clinics**. This means that, for the time being, patients cannot attend a vaccination site for a booster without having **[made a pre-booked appointment](#)**. **However, people who are yet to have a first or second dose, they can attend a walk-in site:** <https://apps.norfolk.gov.uk/WalkIn/>

In order to meet the demand of 180,000 COVID-19 boosters per week, staff across the entire health and care system – including GP practices, Hospital Hubs and other settings are redeploying staff to the vaccination programme. This means that ultimately, there will be fewer staff to carry out more routine appointments. The scale of the challenge is enormous and we can only meet this huge number of weekly vaccinations by health and care staff focussing on vaccination. With this in mind, we need you to help us communicate clear messages with patients and members of the public that they may have to wait longer to get an appointment or be seen for medical issues.

GP appointments will of course continue to be available, but we would appreciate your support in helping to manage expectations during this intense period of vaccination activity. Health and care staff will continue to make solid, appropriate clinical decisions on how and when people are seen. A significant number of GP practices and Primary Care Networks have supported the COVID-19 vaccination programme over the last 12 months, and over the next few weeks, all will be stepping

up to help vaccinate those in cohorts 10, 11 and 12 (people aged 18 - 49) with the COVID-19 booster vaccine.

Norfolk and Waveney has had a strong start to the COVID-19 booster programme; our system and Suffolk and North East Essex are both leading the way with the number of vaccinations to date. Because of this, a significant number of people are already protected but we will continue to put out all the stops to vaccinate as many of those who are eligible with their COVID-19 booster.

As always, your support and commitment to working in partnership is extremely valued as we are now in what is the most pressing time of the programme so far. We will [keep you updated regularly through our website](#) and ask that you share this information with your networks, communities and social media channels where possible.

### **Other information:**

- Currently (13 December), those aged 30+ can [pre-book their booster vaccination](#) for a date a minimum of **three months** after their second dose.
- From Wednesday 15 December, those aged 18+ can [pre-book their booster vaccination](#) for a date a minimum of **three months** after their second dose.
- Boosters are **ONLY** being provided by [pre-booked appointment](#) – there are currently **NO** walk in booster vaccination clinics.
- The only people able to walk in (without an appointment) at selected sites are those needing a **FIRST OR SECOND DOSE**.
- **Please do not contact your GP practice to request a covid vaccination** or visit a vaccination clinic for a booster without an appointment.
- Please only contact NHS services for urgent or emergency health care.
- GP practices and primary care staff have been asked by NHS England to support the delivery of the additional boosters now required by end of December. This means that access to some primary care services may be impacted.