

Sheffield community vaccination update

18 August 2021

What is happening in Sheffield?

As of 16 August, over 388,000 people in Sheffield have had their first dose of the covid-19 vaccination and more than 330,000 their second, that's 77% and 64% of over 16s, which is great news! We still have the highest proportion of people vaccinated out of the core cities in England but we need to keep pushing. To end the pandemic and keep our freedoms, we need as many people as possible to be vaccinated. Cases in Sheffield are still rising as people enjoy the lifting of restrictions and returning to festivals and nightclubs. If you haven't done it already, get your jab today by booking online or attending one of our walk-in clinics.

16 and 17-year-olds vaccinated

It's another exciting step in the covid vaccination roll-out. It's been announced that 16 and 17-year-olds will now be eligible for the first dose of the vaccine. The group will be contacted by the NHS with an appointment, or they can attend a walk-in centre (see below).

Unlike older age groups before it, no second dose is currently being scheduled for people aged 16 and 17 $\frac{3}{4}$ - and those aged 16 and above don't need parental consent to get a vaccine. We're reaching out to community groups to help spread information on this next step in the hope to help get young people vaccinated.

This month, we've teamed up with Reach Up Youth – a young person, community-led project based in Burngreave – to create a rap that discusses the myths and 'fake news' surrounding the covid vaccination and aims directly at young people in Sheffield.

Sheffield-based rapper Sliime wrote the song, and it was shared in local media including ITV Calendar. We want to thank both Sliime and Reach Up Youth for their amazing work with this project and hopefully it can inspire other young people to make a change.

To watch the video, click [here](#) and make sure to share with the hashtag #AllowIt.

Walk-in clinics available

To help with vaccinating 16 and 17-year-olds and to continue to increase vaccination uptake, the NHS and Sheffield City Council have been working to provide clinics and support in key areas across the city.

- Sheffield NHS vaccination centre, Longley Lane, Sheffield S5 7JN, is open 8am – 5pm on Monday to Sunday.
- Darnall Primary Care Centre, 290 Main Road, Darnall, Sheffield, S9 4QH. Open 7pm - 9pm, Monday - Friday and 9am - 4.30pm Saturday and Sunday – currently for those over 17 and $\frac{3}{4}$ only
- St Peter's and St Oswald's Church, corner of Abbeydale and Bannerdale roads, S7 2DL. Open 8.30am – 3pm on Thursday, 8.30am – 6.15pm on Friday, and 9am – 6pm on Saturday. Ran by 1AST Pharmacy.
- Heeley Parish Church, Gleadless Road, S2 3AE. Open 9am – 6pm, from Wednesday – Friday. Ran by 1AST Pharmacy.

Breastfeeding and the vaccination

We've had a lot of people raise their worries and concerns about the covid vaccination affecting their breastfeeding if they're a new mum.

You cannot catch covid from the vaccines and cannot pass it to your baby through your breast milk, and the vaccine is safe for you and your newborn baby.

If you're breastfeeding, the vaccines you can have depends on your age:

- If you're 40 or over, you can have any of the covid vaccines.
- If you're under 40 and don't have a health condition that increases your risk of getting seriously ill from covid, you should have the Pfizer or Moderna vaccine.

You can be safely vaccinated if you're aged 16 or over and pregnant or think you might be, you're breastfeeding or you're trying for a baby or might get pregnant in the future. So, grab a jab today.

Vaccinating 12 and 15-year-olds

As well as vaccinating the 16 to 17-year-old age group, children aged 12 to 15 years with specific underlying health conditions that put them at risk of severe covid will be offered two doses of Pfizer vaccine with a minimum of 8 weeks between doses. The NHS will invite them for the vaccine by 23 August.

This includes children with severe neuro-disability and/or neuromuscular conditions that compromise respiratory function (including cerebral palsy, autism and muscular dystrophy), children and young adults with a learning disability and those with immunosuppression due to disease or treatment.

12 to 15-year-olds who are healthy, but who live with individuals (adults or children) who are immunosuppressed are also being invited for vaccines by 23 August.

It's so important that we continue to protect those most vulnerable within our communities. We've been blown away by the amazing work our community groups have played in the fight against this pandemic. Your tireless efforts have seen fantastic results and we can't thank you enough.

Frequently asked questions

Our GPs and vaccination teams hear questions from patients and community groups about the development of the vaccines. We have addressed a common question below.

Should we be worried about any dangerous side effects after taking the vaccine?

As with all medicines, there can be side effects to the vaccines. However, most are mild and like the flu jab, not everyone gets them. This could include a sore arm where the injection happened, feeling tired or headaches. These are short-term and will pass after a few days. Almost like a bad hangover.

So far, millions of people in the UK have had the vaccines and serious side effects have been rare. If you experienced side effects after your first dose, you still need to have the second dose as having both offers you the most protection. The symptoms of covid and long covid are much worse than the side effects of the vaccine and can last a lot longer.

For more information about the importance of having your second dose, Sheffield's own Dr Anthony Gore has released a [video](#) to explain more.

Other info

For the latest info please visit these websites:

- NHS Sheffield CCG <https://www.sheffieldccg.nhs.uk/Your-Health/covid-19-vaccine-faqs.htm>
- Government website <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/covid-19-vaccinationprogramme>