

COVID-19 Spring Booster Programme in Dorset

The spring drive to boost our immunity against COVID-19 has kicked off in Dorset with a second booster dose available for the most at risk groups.

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) has advised a spring jab should be offered to:

- Adults aged 75 years and over
- Residents in a care home for older adults, and
- individuals aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed

Dorset's network of vaccination centres, community pharmacies and primary care networks is ready to administer jabs as people in the eligible groups receive their invites from the NHS.

You will usually be offered an appointment around 6 months after your last dose of COVID-19 vaccine and your vaccination may be offered to you by a service other than your GP.

A total of 29 sites will offer jabs from 1 April and vaccination programme leads are planning additional pop-up sites to give a wide coverage across Dorset. As well as running the spring booster programme they'll also be giving the opportunity for anyone who has not yet had their earlier jabs to grab them now.

Prof Dawn Dawson, Director of Nursing, Therapies and Quality at Dorset HealthCare, which is managing the vaccination programme with system partners, said: "As we have done throughout the programme, the Dorset health and care system is working closely together to provide a range of locations for people to get their vaccine.

"We have a high number of cases of COVID-19 in our communities right now so it's all the more important we continue to protect ourselves, particularly those who are most vulnerable to becoming seriously ill."

You can [book via the National Booking System](#) or by calling 119 and there are also [walk-ins available](#) at some locations.

There will be special arrangements to visit residents of care homes for older adults and those who are housebound and eligible for the vaccination - please be patient while we book everyone in.

Anyone who is severely immunosuppressed and has not had all their vaccinations should have them as soon as possible. You may need another booster as well as your usual flu injection in the autumn.

NOTE TO EDITORS

Who can have their COVID-19 vaccinations and when?

Primary course of vaccinations

The primary course of the NHS COVID-19 vaccination programme includes the initial vaccine doses given to help build immunity to the virus. Most people have two doses, with an additional third dose for those who are immunosuppressed.

Two-dose primary course - gap between doses 1 and 2 by age

8 weeks	Everyone aged 18 and over
	Those aged 5-17 who are in an at risk group or household contact of someone immunosuppressed
12 weeks	Healthy children and young people aged 5-17

Three-dose primary course – gap between doses 1, 2 and 3

8 weeks	Everyone aged 5+ who is immunosuppressed
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Booster vaccinations

Those who have completed their primary course as above may also be eligible for a booster dose to help maintain their immunity for longer.

Who can get a booster and when?

3 months after primary course	Everyone aged 16+
	Those aged 12-15 in an at risk group or a household contact of someone immunosuppressed

Who can get an additional spring 2022 booster and when?

At least 3 months after above booster	Everyone aged 75+ and residents in a care home for older adults
	Everyone aged 12+ who is immunosuppressed

If you have COVID-19 between doses

If you test positive for COVID-19 or have symptoms that suggest you may have the virus you need to delay further vaccinations:

4 weeks	Everyone aged 18+ and those aged 5-17 in an at risk group
12 weeks	Healthy children and young people aged 5-17

There is more information about the vaccination programme the [Dorset CCG website](#) and [Dorset HealthCare website](#).