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Please don’t attend a walk in service as at the current time we cannot offer it to you.   If you are 40 and over, or 16 and over in one of the clinical at risk groups and you haven’t yet had your booster or got an appointment – please use the National Booking System website or 119 to arrange your vaccine. We have added more than 10,000 appointments per week across our services in the last week and more appointments are added every day.   If you have a booked appointment, please make sure you attend this and receive your booster vaccine.   To date more than 3 million vaccinations have been given in Sussex, with more than 70,000 vaccines being offered each week.   [Read more on the vaccination programme](https://www.sussexhealthandcare.uk/keepsussexsafe/covid-19-vaccinations/) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Launch of Jabvent calendar** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | This week we have launched our ‘Jabvent’ calendar.   The aim is to celebrate the thousands of people who have been involved in the COVID-19 vaccination roll out.   The programme started nationally and for Sussex on 08 December 2020 and to date more than 3 million vaccinations have been given to people across our communities. This includes 1,356,283 first doses, 1,258,921 second doses, and 533,670 booster doses.   Thousands of people have been involved in the programme from vaccinators to booking teams, to administrators, volunteers at sites and transport providers to help get people to their appointments.   Jabvent will celebrate the people behind the programme and tell their story – both those involved in the programme and also the people who have received the vaccine and what it means to them.   Anne Streeter, is 74 and lives in Patcham. She retired from the NHS in 2014 after 43 years’ service and has been part of the team at the vaccination centre in Brighton.   Anne said: “When I saw the advertisement on Facebook for stewards at the vaccination centre, I didn’t think twice about applying. I knew instantly that it was something I wanted to do. I read the role description and thought, ‘I can do this!’   “Volunteering means choosing to work - and the best thing I can offer is my time. Volunteering helps me feel I am part of something outside my friends and family, and gives me a great sense of achievement and satisfaction.   “I wanted to be involved with the vaccination programme and volunteering was a way that I could be part of this ground-breaking project.”   You can be part of ‘Jabvent’ and tell your story – what it has meant to you to be part of the programme? Share your story by emailing [sxccg.comms@nhs.net](mailto:sxccg.comms@nhs.net) | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Pregnant women urged to get COVID-19 jab as data from England shows it is safe** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | We are urging pregnant women to get the COVID-19  jab, after new analysis by the UK Health Security Agency in women giving birth showed COVID-19 vaccines have good safety record in pregnant women.  The analysis looked at women who gave birth up to August this year and, reassuringly, found that there is a similar very low risk of still birth, prematurity and low birth weight in vaccinated and unvaccinated women. However, people who are vaccinated are far more protected against serious COVID-19 than those who are unvaccinated.  We already know that getting vaccinated is the best way to protect yourself from serious illness. If you haven’t already been vaccinated, this new information should add to the reassuring safety data.This accumulating evidence will also allow midwives and other health professionals to provide better information to pregnant women and help to drive uptake higher.  COVID-19 vaccines have now been administered to thousands of pregnant women in this country. In the 8-month period between January and August 2021, 355,299 women gave birth – of whom 24,759 had received at least one dose of COVID-19 vaccine prior to delivery. Existing evidence shows women with COVID-19 disease in later pregnancy are at increased risk of severe disease requiring hospital and intensive care admission.  Vaccines are effective at preventing severe disease – no fully vaccinated pregnant women were admitted to intensive care with COVID-19 in England between February and the end of September 2021 [(UK Obstetric Surveillance System data).](https://www.npeu.ox.ac.uk/ukoss)  Every pregnant woman who has not yet been vaccinated should feel confident to go and get the jab, and this will help to prevent the serious consequences of catching COVID-19 in pregnancy. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Third COVID-19 jabs available to book online for people who are severely immunosuppressed** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | People who are severely immunosuppressed can now book their third COVID-19 jab online.  In line with Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) guidance, those who are classed as severely immunosuppressed as a result of treatment, for conditions such as cancer or for those with long-term chronic conditions where their immunity is affected by medication, are eligible for a third dose eight weeks after their second dose.  Adults who are eligible for a third dose of the COVID-19 vaccine and have received a clinical referral letter from their doctor can now go online and book an appointment.  The [NHS COVID-19 vaccination booking service](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/book-coronavirus-vaccination/book-or-manage-a-booster-dose-of-the-coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine/) will offer an option to ‘book my 3rd dose appointment’ for adults who had a weakened immune system at the time they had a second dose.  Although the number of people in this cohort can change over relatively short periods of time – for example patients may start chemotherapy or other treatments and so their eligibility for third and subsequent doses will change – around half a million are eligible for a third jab in England, and [more than seven in 10 have already had theirs](https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/statistical-work-areas/covid-19-vaccinations/).  The decision on when to get a third jab for people who are severely immunosuppressed is made between patients and their clinicians. In line with JCVI guidance, the third dose for those with severe immunosuppression should usually be given at least eight weeks after the second dose. The offer of a third dose for people who are severely immunosuppressed is separate to the booster programme. | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | **Parents and carers urged to protect their two-and three-year olds against flu and serious complications** | | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | |  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | | |  | | --- | | The flu vaccination programme is well underway across the South East of England with thousands of parents and carers having already arranged for their children to be vaccinated.  As a result of COVID-19 restrictions, influenza activity levels were extremely low globally last year. With social mixing and social contact returning towards pre-pandemic norms, it is expected that this will be the first winter that flu and COVID-19 will co-circulate. It is also anticipated that there may be a higher rate of flu infection.   If you get flu and COVID-19 at the same time, research shows you're more likely to be seriously ill.   If you have a 2 or 3-year-old pre-school child, please make an appointment with your GP practice for them to have their flu vaccine.     Vaughan Lewis, Medical Director for NHS England and NHS Improvement’s South East region, said: “Each year, the NHS vaccinates millions of people against flu, and this year it is even more important than ever that eligible children and adults take up the offer of a free flu vaccine, as we head towards what is likely to be a very challenging winter for the NHS.   “Infection with the flu virus has a serious impact on the health of thousands of people every winter, and getting your child vaccinated will protect them, and reduce the chance of them passing it to other family members and loved ones, so please book an appointment for your child as soon as possible.”   Flu symptoms can appear very quickly and include a high temperature about 38oC, an aching body, feeling exhausted, sore throat and runny nose and loss of appetite. Children may also become less active and get ear pain.   The nasal spray flu vaccine is free on the NHS for:   * children aged 2 or 3 years on 31 August 2021 – born between 1 September 2017 and 31 August 2019 * all primary school children (reception to year 6) * all year 7 to year 11 children in secondary school * children aged 2 to 17 years with long-term health conditions   Three-year-old year Alana was vaccinated in October, her mother Sabahat Hassan, said: “It’s really important that my daughter gets the flu jab each year as I don’t want her to become unnecessarily unwell.   “I also know that children can be super spreaders, and the last thing I would like would be for my parents to become unwell because I did not take up the opportunity to vaccinate my child.”   Even if your child had a flu vaccination last year, the type of flu can vary each winter, so it is recommended that they have the flu vaccine each year to boost their immunity.   The nasal spray is safe and effective and offers the best protection for children aged 2 to 17 years. In some instances, the flu vaccine injection can be offered if the nasal spray vaccine is not suitable. However, please speak to your child’s nurse or doctor if they are aged 2 or 3 and your schools’ immunisations team if your child is in primary to Year 11 at school. Parents and carers of home-schooled children should contact their local community clinic. | | | |

Any Queries, please contact Andy Miller

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