

Pop up clinics will offer COVID vaccination jabs without appointment

Several drop-in COVID-19 vaccination clinics will be running across Harrogate District this weekend, where people can walk in at their convenience without needing to make an appointment.

- **Wesley Centre, Oxford Street, Harrogate: Saturday 17 July, 10am to 4pm** – first dose Pfizer clinic for anyone aged 18 and over
- **Pateley Bridge Memorial Hall: Saturday 17 July, 8am-5.50pm** – first dose Pfizer clinic for those aged 18 and over
- **Homecare Pharmacy Vaccination Centre, former Lidl site, Knaresborough: Saturday 17 July and Sunday 18 July, 9am to 5pm** – first dose Moderna clinics for anyone aged 18 and over

We hope that as many parents, staff and eligible pupils aged 18 or over who have not yet taken up the opportunity to have their first vaccine come forward as possible.

Vaccination is the most effective way to reduce the risk of developing serious or life-threatening symptoms from coronavirus, as well as protecting others in the community. The walk-in clinics have been organised to make it as convenient as possible for people to access this protection.

The delta variant of coronavirus is more easily transmitted than earlier forms of the illness, meaning vaccination is increasingly important as infection levels rise. The infection rate for Harrogate District is currently significantly above the England average and numbers are up significantly across the county, particularly among younger adults.

The rise in infection rates nationally has been followed by an increase in numbers admitted to hospital with younger people among those affected. People of all ages are also susceptible to long Covid, where symptoms last over an extended period.

A further benefit to vaccination is that from July 19th those who are fully vaccinated and returning from amber list countries will no longer be required to complete 10 days of quarantine, bringing potential advantages for holidaymakers. In addition, from August 16th people who have had 2 doses of vaccine will no longer automatically have to self-isolate if identified as a close contact by NHS Test & Trace.