

Issue 58 - April - 12/04/2022

CTM UHB COVID-19 Vaccination Update

What is new since our last update?

The spring booster programme begins



Our spring booster campaign has started. It is a second booster for our most vulnerable individuals.

If you are:

• **Aged 75 years and over** – we are sending you an appointment letter to attend one of our three community vaccination centres (CVCs).

Appointments are being sent out daily, so please do not worry at this stage if you are yet to receive one.

- Aged 75 years and over but housebound our mobile vaccination teams will visit your home to give you the spring booster. Please be aware due to the logistics of administering the vaccine at home, we are planning to have offered all our eligible housebound patients their spring booster by the end of May.
- A resident in a care home for older adults we have visited all of our care homes in Cwm Taf Morgannwg to offer a spring booster. Some homes we were unable to vaccinate everyone due to illness, and so we are now in the process of re-visiting those homes.
- An Individual aged 12 years and over who are immunosuppressed (as defined in in the <u>Green Book</u>) we are sending you an appointment letter to attend one of our three community vaccination centres (CVCs). Appointments are being sent out daily, so please do not worry at this stage if you are yet to receive one.

Quick spring booster frequently asked questions

Q: I missed/was unable to attend my original appointment.

A: No problem at all. You have a couple of options, firstly, you can call our booking line (their number is on your original appointment letter) and they will make another appointment for you. Secondly, you can fill in the online form on our website. Link to the form is here: Online COVID-19 Vaccine Booking Form - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (nhs.wales)

Q: Can I just walk-in for my spring booster?

A: We are sorry, but at this stage of the programme, we cannot offer walk-ins for the spring booster. If or when that changes, we will update everyone.

Q: Can I/or someone bring me to a drive-thru for my spring booster?

A: Of course! You do need an appointment though for our drive-thru clinics, but our teams will be happy to book you a slot. We have two drive-thru clinics, one in Merthyr Tydfil (**Keir Hardie University Health Park**, Aberdare Road, Merthyr Tydfil, CF48 1BZ) and the other in Bridgend (**Ysbyty'r Seren**, Bennett Street, Bridgend, CF31 3SH). You will not have to get out of the vehicle you are in while we give you the spring booster, so the drive-thru clinics are appropriate for anyone who has mobility issues.

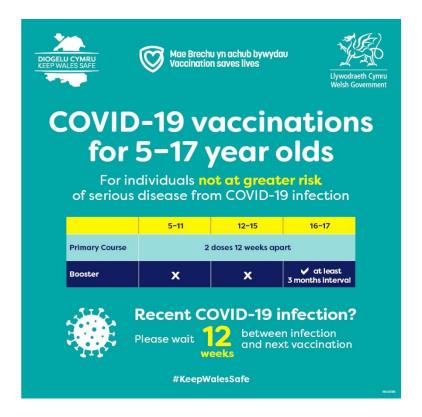
Q: There is no way I can get to your remaining CVCs?

A: We carefully selected the location of our CVCs to try to make them as accessible as possible to the widest population. They are all easy to access, have parking and are on public transport routes.

If, however, there is no way you can access transport to get to one of our CVCs, we may be able to help.

Please call the booking team (their number is on your appointment letter). The team there will check your eligibility to access our **vaxi-taxi** service.

Vaccination offer for children 5-11 years old



We are sending out appointment letters to **all** 5 to 11 year olds living in Cwm Taf Morgannwg, offering them a COVID-19 vaccination.

The appointments are after school or at weekends in one of our three community vaccination centres.

Please remember if your child has had COVID-19 **you must wait 12 weeks** from infection (positive test result) until they can have their first jab. The same time delay applies when we begin to offer second doses to this age group. There has been some confusion with parents thinking it is 28 days for this age group (but that only applies to children at serious risk from COVID-19).

Quick COVID-19 vaccinations for 5-11 year olds frequently asked questions

Q: I would like some advice before I bring my child for a COVID-19 vaccine.

A: That is great, we would encourage you to do so. All we would ask is that you get your advice from trusted sources. Public Health Wales has a lot of

information on its website about vaccinating 5-11 year olds, including the reasoning, risk of COVID-19, and safety of the vaccine etc. Have a read through the information, which will allow you and your family to decide together on whether you want your child/children to have the COVID-19 vaccine. Here is the link to Public Health Wales website Patient information - Public Health Wales (nhs.wales). There are also easy read, accessible versions.

Do not forget as well we have a dedicated vaccination advice line for 5-17 year olds and their parents/guardians. Having read all the information if you feel you still have a question then just fill in the form on our website, link here: Advice line - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (nhs.wales). One of our vaccination nurses will get back to you. The nurses are there for advice; they cannot make you a new appointment.

Finally, our vaccination teams are amazing, friendly and highly trained. They will make you, and your child, feel comfortable while they are having their vaccination. If your child is anxious about needles or vaccines, please let the team know when you arrive for your appointment. We will do anything we can to help.

You can read the JCVI's advice in full here: <u>JCVI statement on vaccination of children aged 5 to 11 years old - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)</u>

You can read Welsh Government's acceptance of that advice here: <u>COVID-19</u> vaccination of 5 to 11 year olds | GOV.WALES

Q: We missed our original appointment but now we want our child/children to have the vaccine, what should we do?

A: No problem at all. It is easy to arrange a new appointment. You have a couple of options, firstly, you can call our booking line (their number is on your original appointment letter) and they will make another appointment for you. Secondly, you can fill in the online form on our website. Link to the form is here: Online COVID-19 Vaccine Booking Form - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (nhs.wales)

Q: Can we just walk-in for our child's vaccine?

A: No, sorry, we cannot offer walk-ins for children aged 5-11. This is because this age group is having a child's version of the COVID-19 vaccine, which needs to be prepared in advance to avoid any wastage.

Q: I have more than one child in this age group, and they all have separate appointments?

If you have more than one child in this age group, you will receive an appointment for each child – but for your convenience, you can bring all the children to one of those appointments. Feel free to attend whichever of the

appointments is more convenient for you and your family. You do not need to let us know, you can just turn up.

Second dose for 12-15 year olds

We are inviting 12-15 year olds in for their second dose as they become due.

If you, or your 12-15 year old missed their second dose appointment, there are three options:

- 1. Call the booking team (their number is on your original appointment letter) to arrange a new appointment
- 2. Fill in the online booking form to request a new appointment. Link to the form is here: Online COVID-19 Vaccine Booking Form Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (nhs.wales)
- 3. Walk-in to any of our three community vaccination centres (when due for your second dose 12 weeks after your first).

Second doses and booster for 16 & 17 year olds

We are inviting 16 & 17 year olds in for their second dose or their booster when they become due. This age group can have their second dose twelve weeks after their first and have their booster thirteen weeks after their second dose.

If you, or your 16 or 17 year old, missed their second dose or booster appointment, there are three options:

- 1. Call the booking team (their number is on your original appointment letter) to arrange a new appointment
- 2. Fill in the online booking form to request a new appointment. Link to the form is here: Online COVID-19 Vaccine Booking Form Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (nhs.wales)
- 3. Walk-in to any of our three community vaccination centres (when due for your second dose or booster).

Easter holiday opening hours

Due to the long Easter weekend, our community vaccination centres will not be open on Good Friday, Easter Saturday, Easter Sunday or the Bank Holiday Monday. They will reopen for appointments and walk-ins on Tuesday, 19 April.

Two vaccination centres handed back to the community

Since our last update (March), we have been able to hand back two of our community vaccination centres (CVCs) in Rhondda and Mountain Ash so that the venues can be used again as a leisure centre and indoor bowls facility.

This has been possible due to the success of the vaccination programme and is thanks to the huge numbers of people who came forward for their first, second, third or booster doses.

You can read more on this story on our website here: <u>Cwm Taf Morgannwg UHB hands back community vaccination centres - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (nhs.wales)</u>

Our remaining three CVCs are in Bridgend, Merthyr Tydfil and Llantrisant.

Nobody left behind – walk-in opportunities

While our spring booster programme and 5-11 year old vaccination offer is underway, we remain committed to making sure nobody is left behind for their first, second, third or booster dose.

Please do not think it is too late - it is not.

Maybe you were unable to make your appointment for your first, second, third or booster – or you are now overdue your next dose – please come forward.

All of our community vaccination centres are available for walk-ins for anyone aged 12+.

You do not need an appointment for first, second, third or booster doses.

At this stage of our programme, walk-ins are not available for the spring booster.

All we ask is that before you turn up, you check out our website (link below) to make sure you are eligible – that you have waited the right time between doses and accounted for the necessary time you need to wait after COVID-19 infection.

Please check that information here: <u>Walk-in vaccines - Cwm Taf Morgannwg University Health Board (nhs.wales)</u>

ID is not essential but it does help us speed up the process, and you might be asked for proof of age. Suggested ID would be a passport, drivers licence or a utility bill for proof of address.

You can still be vaccinated without ID. Any information we take off you is for health data only and is not shared.

CTM UHB's community vaccination centres are as follows:

- **Llantrisant** CVC (Llantrisant Leisure Centre, CF72 8DJ)
- **Bridgend** CVC (Ravens Court, CF31 4AP)
- **Merthyr Tydfil** CVC (Merthyr Tydfil Leisure Centre, CF48 1UT)

Please remember your mask when you attending one of our community vaccination centres

Our community vaccination centres are health settings and as such you are legally required to wear a face mask/covering during your appointment.

We also ask that you take a test before your appointment and only arrive if that test is negative. If you are feeling unwell or have any COVID-19 symptoms, please do not attend your appointment.

Who is currently being vaccinated?

We are currently vaccinating:

- Everyone eligible for a spring booster
- 5-11 year olds for their first dose
- 12-15 year olds for their second dose (as they become due)
- 16 and 17 year olds for their booster or second dose (as they become due)
- Anyone who uses our walk-in clinics for their first, second, third or booster.

Advance warning of CVC closure for local elections

Two of our community vaccination centres, Merthyr Tydfil and Llantrisant, will be temporarily closed on May 5 and 6 due to the local elections. No appointments will be issued for those two days in the CVCs, but we will continue to vaccinate the housebound and care home residents. We will issue reminders closer to the time.

Other information:

For more information about vaccine safety, please check out Public Health Wales' FAQs: Click here https://phw.nhs.wales/topics/immunisation-and-vaccines/covid-19-vaccination-information/

Vaccination Advice Line There is a dedicated vaccination advice line. It is open 7 days a week - 9:00am to 4:30pm. The number is **01685 726464**.

There is also a dedicated email address: CTM.VaccinationEnquiries@wales.nhs.uk

Please note: The team cannot make, rearrange, or cancel Covid-19 vaccine bookings. They are unable to answer individual clinical questions or questions about Covid passports.

For more information on Covid Passports see here: <u>Get your NHS COVID Pass</u> | <u>GOV.WALES</u>

*Public Health Wales' summary of groups 1 to 9 is below: Group 10 is the remaining adult population (Under 50s).

