

Our ref: GB/RD-(JM)

26th October 2021

Letter to all Carers

Dear Carer

Coronavirus vaccination update

I hope you are keeping safe and well. I am writing to ensure that you continue to have access to all the information in relation to the ongoing Covid situation.

As the Director of Adult Social Care for Birmingham, I can confirm that I, and all of my colleagues, are committed to ensuring that we continue to meet the needs of those you care for.

As we head into the winter season, I am mindful of the likelihood of more germs spreading. Our hospitals continue to be stretched to manage the influx of patients with normal illnesses, and it is predicted that the spread of the flu and the ongoing infection rates of Covid may be more severe than in previous years. This will increase the strain on all support services.

As such I thought it would be useful to remind you of some key information updates that you may or may not be aware of.

As always, the latest government advice which can be found here: <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus> must always be followed.

- **Covid vaccinations**

It is fundamental that everyone who is able to receives both of their Covid vaccinations. I know that GP surgeries are ensuring that everyone who isn't exempt is invited to get theirs. If you have yet to get yours, please contact your local GP surgery which will be able to help.

- **Covid Booster and Flu Vaccinations**

As you will have seen on the news, there is now Covid boosters available for those citizens who have received both of their Covid vaccinations at least 6 months before. Again your GP surgery will invite you to go for your booster vaccination and will normally offer you your flu vaccination at the same time. I would encourage you to receive both to ensure that you are as protected as possible.

If you are eligible for a flu vaccination, but have only recently received your covid vaccinations, then again, your GP surgery should invite you in for flu vaccination

rather than waiting for the time to come when you could receive both. As a carer - I can confirm that you are on the priority list to receive a booster vaccination. So if you haven't yet been invited to attend your surgery for yours, and you had your vaccinations at least 6 months before, please do contact your GP surgery or book on the link below.

If you have any trouble booking your booster vaccination and are over 50, this can also be done by visiting this web page: [Book or manage a booster dose of the coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](#). You can also call 119, or visit your nearest walk-in centre.

- **Adult Social Care staff**

I would like to take this opportunity to assure you that we have been actively encouraging our own staff to receive all of their vaccinations. This is especially important for those working in our care centres and care homes in the city due to the Government legislation that comes in to force on 11th November. This legislation does now allow anyone not double vaccinated to work in or visit a care home in a professional or voluntary capacity. I would like to assure you that if you have friends or relatives who live in care homes, we will ensure we fulfil this requirement for anyone they may come into contact with.

We have issued advice to our staff who may be exempt from receiving the vaccinations, and they each have a duty to carry this evidence with them, should you wish to see it.

As always, Adult Social Care support and advice is still available by contacting your local social work team. If you do not know how to do this and need help urgently, please call 0121 303 1234.

Support to carers continues to be available from Birmingham Carers Hub who can be contacted on 0333 006 9711 or at www.birminghamcarershub.org.uk

I hope you find this information useful.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Graeme Betts', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Professor Graeme Betts CBE
Corporate Director
Adult Social Care