

CLUN DIVISION

# E-BULLETIN 22

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# VACCINATIONS IN SHROPSHIRE

GOV.UK/coronavirus

**NHS**  
Counter Fraud Authority

## BE ALERT TO VACCINE FRAUD

Criminals are using the COVID-19 vaccine as a way to target the public by tricking them to hand over cash or financial details. They are sending convincing-looking text messages letting people know they are eligible for the vaccine or phoning people directly pretending to be from the NHS, or local pharmacy.

**PEOPLE ARE WARNED TO BE ALERT TO THESE SCAMS**

The NHS will:

- ⊗ NEVER ask for payment - the vaccine is free
- ⊗ NEVER ask for your bank details
- ⊗ NEVER arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine
- ⊗ NEVER ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport

The vaccination roll out has started for priority groups in South West Shropshire. The Vaccination hub opened on Thursday in Church Stretton and GP practices (including **Meadows Practice Clun**, Bishop's Castle and Worthen) have also started to invite older people living in the local community to their vaccination appointment.

NHS England are also sending out letters inviting recipients to telephone for an appointment: this will be at a larger vaccination centre and may be in the newly opening centre at Ludlow racecourse, Telford, Shrewsbury or further afield.

This letter can be ignored if you are happy to wait to be called by your GP practice, but also – if you have already used it to make an appointment but want one nearer to home, you can use the instructions to go online, cancel your existing appointment and make one at a closer location

Anyone who doesn't have transport to their vaccination are now able to get free transport. In order to get help you must have had a letter inviting you for vaccination in Shropshire and not be able to get there in any other way. Transport can be booked by calling 0345 678 9028 or via your local GP practice.

If you have your own transport and your appointment is at Church Stretton, free parking is available in the Shropshire Council Easthope Road 3 car park  
**Any problems - do not hesitate to get in touch with me via the contact details above.**

### FURTHER GUIDANCE AND SUPPORT



If you receive a call you believe to be fraudulent, hang up. If you are suspicious about an email you have received, forward it to [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk). Suspicious text messages should be forwarded to the number 7726 which is free of charge.



If you believe you have been the victim of fraud or identity theft, you should report this directly to Action Fraud either online; [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or via phone 0300 123 2040.



If you have any information relating to vaccine fraud you can stay 100% anonymous by contacting CrimeStoppers COVID Fraud Hotline online; [covidfraudhotline.org](http://covidfraudhotline.org) or phone 0800 587 5030.

**FOR RESIDENTS WITH POWYS DOCTORS SEE PAGE 5**

## Age UK online activities for older people

Age UK Shropshire Telford and Wrekin have developed online activities for older people including activity packs that can be downloaded, an online book club and an on line singing group. Full details are in the link below.

Age UK Shropshire Telford & Wrekin | Activities and events

<https://www.ageuk.org.uk/shropshireandtelford/activities-and-events/>

## IMPORTANT

**The consultation on the proposed housing developments in Bucknell and Clun proposed by Shropshire Council's Conservative Administration has been extended to 26<sup>th</sup> February. These will impact significantly on our communities. For further details and to have your say go to: <http://shropshire.gov.uk/get-involved/reg-19-pre-submission-draft-local-plan/> or ring 0345 678 9004**

## INFORMATION IN THIS BULLETIN IS CORRECT AS WE GO TO PRESS



### GRIT BINS

Are your grit bins empty? Contact Nigel on 07583 962292 or email [nigel.hartin@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:nigel.hartin@shropshire.gov.uk)

## Open letter from Shropshire Councillors to the Government



We are writing this with an ever increasing sense of incredulity that the Government remains on course for a Covid 'Superspreader' event on a massive scale if the countrywide elections, the biggest set of elections for many years, including County Council, District Council, Unitary Authority and the Police and Crime Commissioner take place as planned in May!

It's been clear for some weeks that in Shropshire, we lag behind almost every other part of the Country in vaccinations. In England we remain in the 3rd lockdown and death rates remain high. Many hospitals are near breaking point and we are already dealing with new variants of the virus.

This weekend the Local Government Information Unit backed by the vast majority of senior council officials, warned about the severe concerns they have about holding such elections in May, including the ability of councils to recruit and train electoral workers, with the likelihood of fewer volunteers willing to put themselves at risk and real difficulties in finding polling and count venues. Then there is the risk of counting the votes in halls containing hundreds of counting staff and candidates etc - not to mention the risk of disenfranchising voters worried about the risk of catching Covid 19.

To hold such elections in May will inevitably lead to far greater spread of the virus which, as night follows day, will lead to greater hospital admissions and sadly more deaths! - We can avoid this if the Government acts now and postpones the election at least until the Autumn to allow our vaccination rollout to really have an effect!

Cllr **Nigel Hartin** Shropshire Councillor Clun Division  
Cllr **Heather Kidd** Chirbury and Worthen Division  
Cllr **Ruth Houghton** Bishop's Castle Division



**Postal Voting** Anyone can apply to have their ballot papers sent to them by post, instead of going to vote in person at a polling station. By completing and submitting a postal vote application form, you can choose to vote by post:

Contact: **Electoral Services at Shropshire Council:** [elections@shropshire.org.uk](mailto:elections@shropshire.org.uk) or 0345 678 9015

[www.shropshirelibdems.org](http://www.shropshirelibdems.org)



# IN BRIEF

## VOLUNTEERS WANTED FOR VACCINATION CENTRES

Shropshire Rural Community Council are seeking volunteers to help at vaccination centres when they are set up: eg as car park marshals etc - the link below gives full details

<https://www.shropshire-rcc.org.uk/support-our-work/covid-19-volunteer>

## MISSED WASTE COLLECTION

If Veolia miss collecting your waste please ring Customer Services on 03456 789007 within 2 days. If the collection is missed due to poor weather conditions, report as soon as the road is clear. They should then come and collect. If there is an issue please contact Nigel on 07583 962292

# ENGLAND LOCKDOWN STAY AT HOME

THE NEW STRAIN OF CORONAVIRUS IS SPREADING FAST.  
WE ALL NEED TO PLAY OUR PART TO STOP THE SPREAD.

### ▶ LEAVING HOME

You must not leave, or be outside of your home or garden, except for a very limited set of exemptions e.g. to shop for basic necessities, exercise, go to work if you cannot do so from home, or to escape risk of harm.

### ▶ MEETING OTHERS

You cannot leave your home to meet socially with anyone, except with your household or support bubble (if eligible to form one). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

### ▶ EXERCISE

You may exercise on your own, with your household or support bubble, or with one person from another household (when on your own). Stay 2 metres apart from anyone not in your household or support bubble.

### ▶ BARS, PUBS AND RESTAURANTS

Hospitality closed aside from sales by takeaway (until 11pm), click-and-collect, drive-through or delivery. Alcohol cannot be purchased through takeaway or click-and-collect from hospitality venues.

### ▶ RETAIL

Essential shops can open. Non-essential retail must close and can only run click-and-collect and delivery.

### ▶ WORK AND BUSINESS

Everyone must work from home unless they are unable to do so.

### ▶ EDUCATION

Early years settings open. Primary and secondary schools and colleges move to remote provision except for vulnerable children and children of critical workers. Most university students to move to remote learning.

### ▶ LEISURE AND SPORTING FACILITIES

Closed, with limited exceptions.

### ▶ ACCOMMODATION

Closed, with limited exceptions.

### ▶ PERSONAL CARE

Closed.

### ▶ ENTERTAINMENT

Closed.

### ▶ OVERNIGHT STAYS

You must not stay overnight away from home. Limited exceptions apply e.g. to stay with your support bubble.

### ▶ WEDDINGS AND FUNERALS

Funerals of up to 30 people permitted. Weddings up to 6 people permitted in exceptional circumstances. Wakes and other linked ceremonial events of up to 6 permitted.

### ▶ PLACES OF WORSHIP

Places of worship can remain open and communal worship is permitted, but you must not mix with those outside your household or support bubble.

### ▶ TRAVELLING

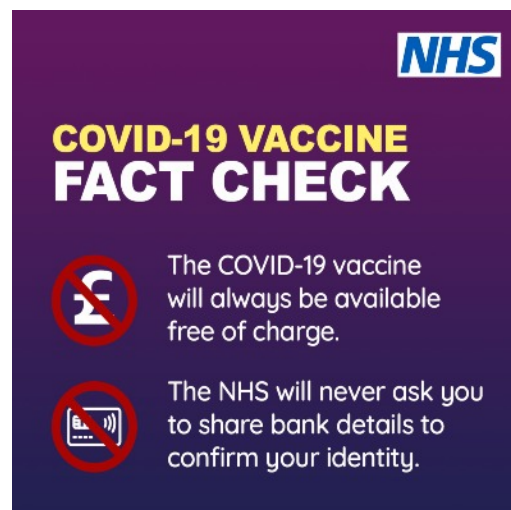
You must stay at home. If you do leave home for a very limited set of exemptions, you should stay local in the village, town, or part of the city where you live where possible. Do not travel abroad unless an exemption applies.

### ▶ CLINICALLY EXTREMELY VULNERABLE

Shielding reintroduced across England. You should not travel to work, school, college or university and should limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential.

### ▶ CARE HOME VISITS

Visits can take place with arrangements such as substantial screens, visiting pods, or behind windows. Close-contact indoor visits are not allowed. No visits will be permitted in the event of an outbreak but end of life visits are permitted in all circumstances.



## NEW BUSINESS GRANT

Details have now been published of the Discretionary Additional Restrictions Grant (DARG) for businesses not eligible for the for the local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSG) but have been significantly impacted by COVID-19.

This grant scheme will close on Sunday 21 February 2021 at 11:59pm.

Businesses that applied during the November 2020 lockdown for the previous DARG grant **do not need to apply again**. If you were successfully awarded funding you will be eligible for this award, subject to you still meeting all eligibility criteria and final checks being completed and approved.

These grants are focused on those key sectors that were mandated to close by Government immediately, plus those closely aligned to them such as businesses in the supply chain of retail, hospitality and leisure businesses and events businesses. This also includes non-essential retail, personal care and sport businesses.

<https://shropshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/information-for-businesses-and-the-self-employed/covid-19-business-grants/discretionary-additional-restrictions-grant/>

## Winter Warmth and Winter Grant Funds

Support is available for vulnerable households in Shropshire in the form of grants of up to £250 (Winter Warmth Fund) and up to £500 (Winter Grant Fund) to help alleviate fuel poverty and the impacts of the ongoing public health emergency and where alternative sources of assistance may not be available.

For more information and an application form please email [elizabeth.thain@shropshire-rcc.org.uk](mailto:elizabeth.thain@shropshire-rcc.org.uk) or call 01743 342167/ 07816 297795.

## Unpaid carers (also referred to as family or informal carers)

The 2011 census showed that there are around 34,000 known carers in Shropshire. This number does not account for people who do not identify as carers – ‘hidden’ carers, and young carers from 5 up to 18 years of age.

Shropshire Council launched a new Carers’ service this week which is a free to access service and includes:

Specialist information, advice and signposting

1:1 support

Developing peer support groups

Virtual groups

Carers’ Register and identification card

Future and emergency planning

Supporting and promoting carers’ events.

### Other support for Carers is available from:

**Mobilise Online** provides up to date information and support including regular contact through emails, ‘virtual cuppas’, online training and one-to-one coaching sessions, run virtually. The Mobilise service is free to use and can be accessed via: [www.mobiliseonline.co.uk/shropshire](http://www.mobiliseonline.co.uk/shropshire)

**Crossroads Together** carer advisor team will provide information and support to unpaid carers in Shropshire via telephone, email or digitally. The support line for carers, 01743 341995, is available every weekday from 9.00am till 5.00pm. For more information on the support they provide call the support line or look at their website <https://www.crossroadstogether.org.uk/our-services/carerlinks/carerlinks-shropshire/>

Details of more support and up to date information on a wide range of topics that may affect unpaid carers during this time are on Shropshire Choices website, which has a dedicated Coronavirus resource page with links to information specific to unpaid carers.

Shropshire Council are issuing priority passes for unpaid carers to use while out on essential visits as part their caring role and requiring proof if they are stopped during their journey. Contact Margarete Davies, Carer Lead at Shropshire Council on 01743 255776 or email: [Margarete.Davies@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:Margarete.Davies@shropshire.gov.uk) for more information or to request a pass.

Unpaid carers have now been recognised on the priority list for vaccination under **Priority 6 - Persons aged 16-64 years with underlying health conditions.**

Carers in receipt of Carer Allowance or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person, whose welfare is at risk if the carer becomes unwell, will be offered a vaccination.

We urge all unpaid carers to advise their GP practices that they are providing a caring role. This makes it easier for the practice to offer practical things to unpaid carers such as vaccinations and health checks.

Family carers and professionals looking for information, advice or support can contact the Shropshire Carers Support Team on **01743 341995** or by email [shropshire.carers@shropshire.gov.uk](mailto:shropshire.carers@shropshire.gov.uk)



The census  
is coming

Sunday **21 March**

it's about us  
census 2021



# PTHB Covid 19 Vaccination - Geography and Sites

Sites in North, Mid and South Powys to provide coverage in line with the population distribution

