

COVID-19 Community Champions

Fortnightly briefing

Wednesday 29 September



Describe the last six months of your COVID Champions project

Informative

Interesting

Impactful

Challenging

Insightful

Exciting

Eye opening

Good experience

Innovative

Made a difference

Learning

Challenging

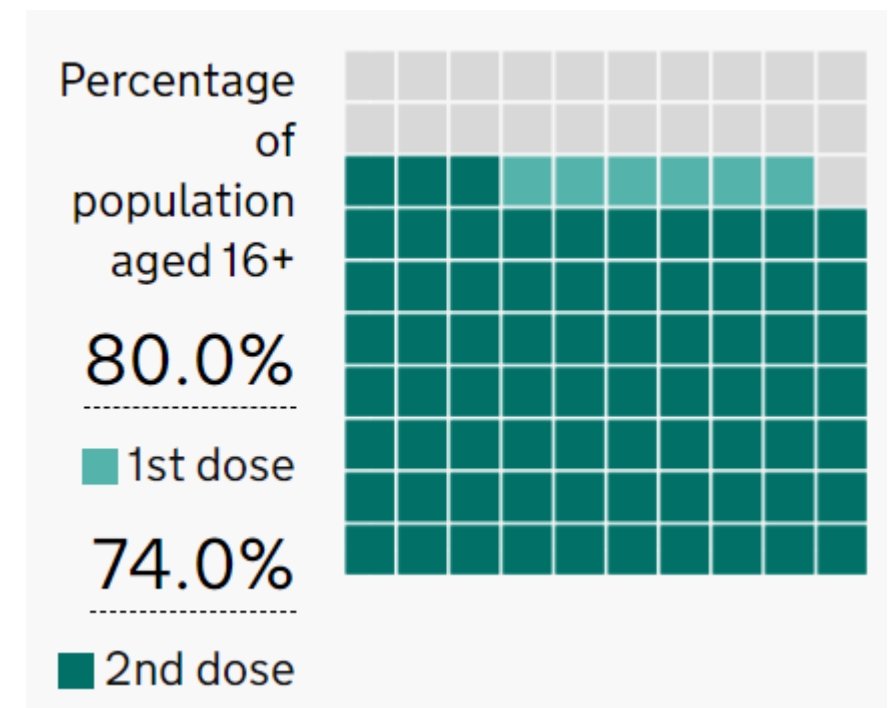
Something new we have done



Thank you to our COVID-19 Community Champions



- The COVID-19 rates in Walsall continue to fluctuate. There has been around a 15% increase in the number of residents testing positive over the last seven days. This increasing trend can also be seen regionally and nationally.
- Our current rate in Walsall per 100K of the population is 343.9 (20 Sept 298.6). National rate is 341.5 (20 Sept 303.3).
- Over 1000 residents have tested positive in the past seven days. The positivity rate remains under 10% but remains higher than our comparators.
- So far, in Walsall* we have vaccinated the eligible adult population in Walsall;
 - 1 dose 80.0% n190, 382 (6 September 79.2%, n188,750)
 - 2 dose 74.0% n175,204 (6 September 71.2%, n170,975)



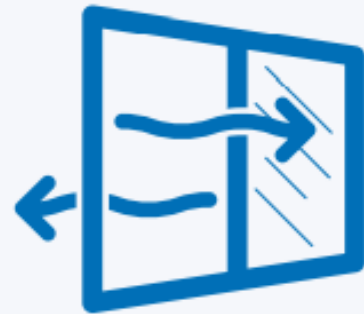
Advising people on how to protect themselves and others

Translations
are now
available

Safer Behaviours and Actions



Get vaccinated



Let fresh air in if you meet indoors. Meeting outdoors is safer



Wear a face covering in crowded and enclosed settings where you come into contact with people you do not normally meet



Get tested, and self isolate if required



Try to stay at home if you are feeling unwell



Wash your hands

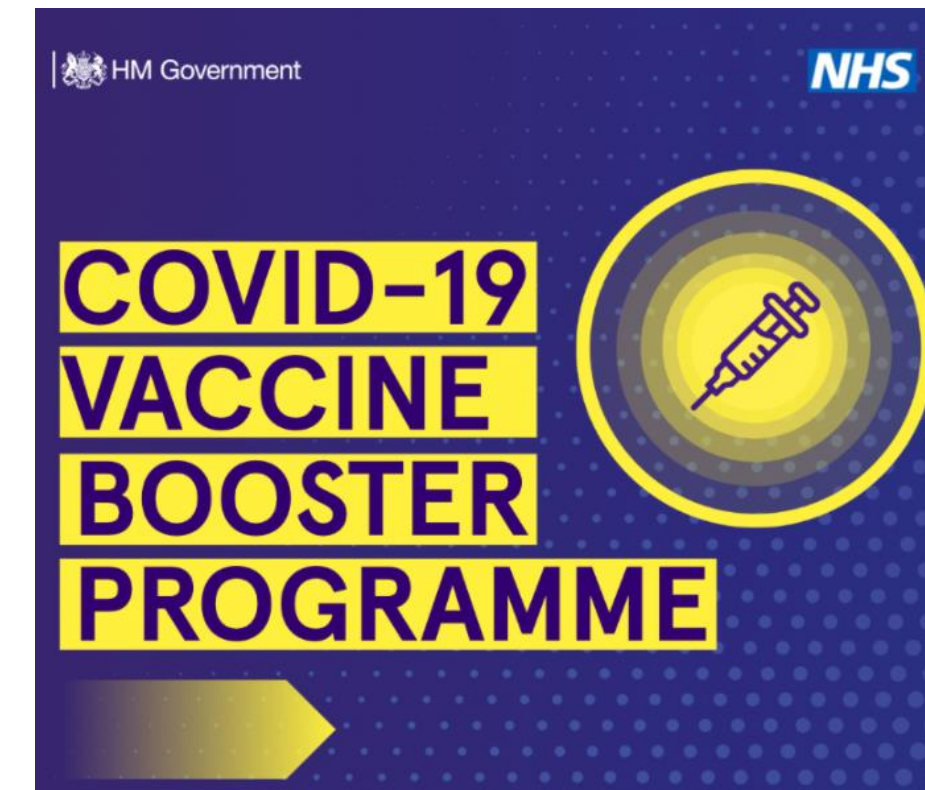


Download and use the NHS COVID-19 app

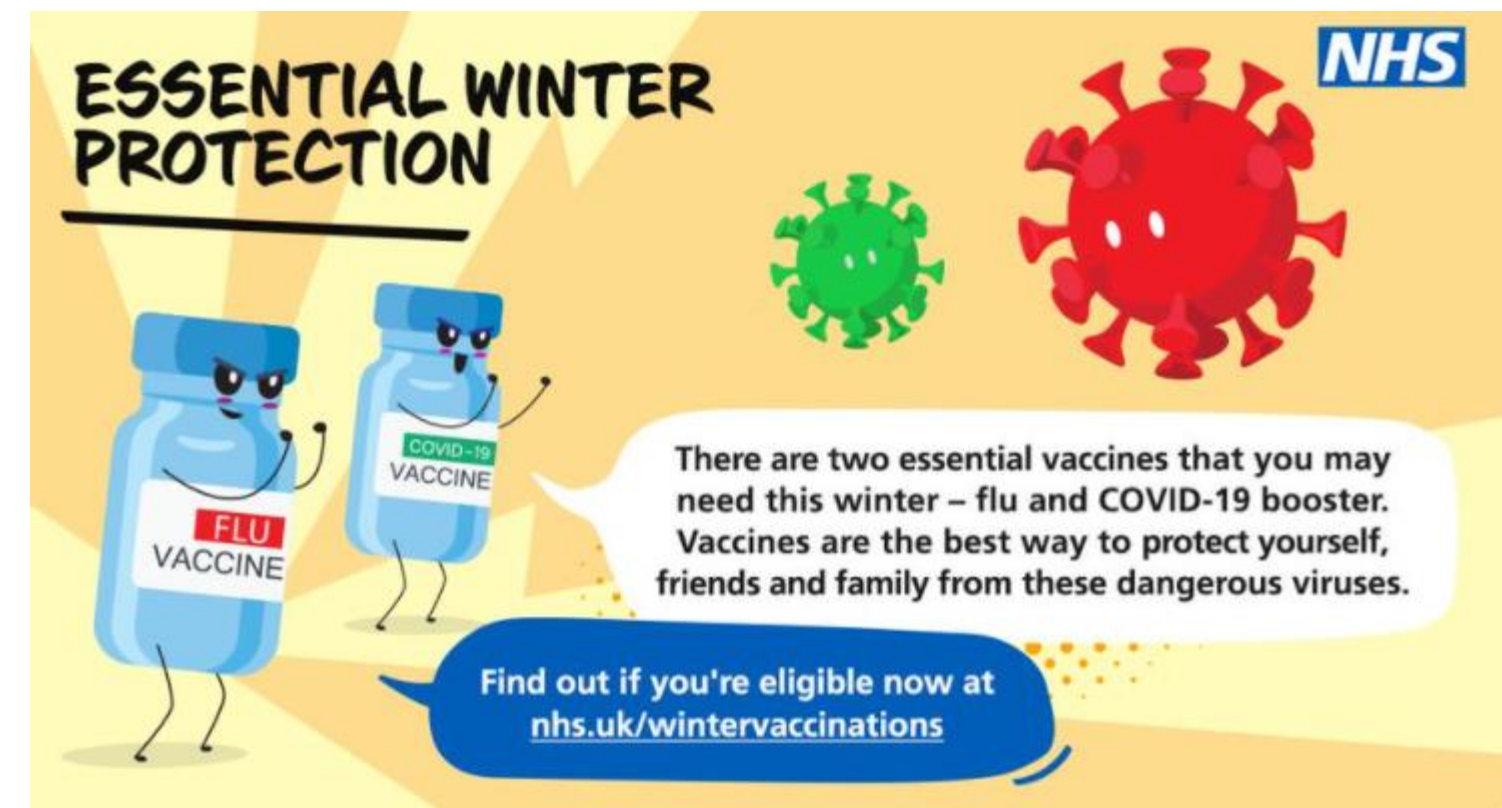
Key point: It remains important for everyone, including those who are fully vaccinated, to continue to follow public health guidance. This will help reduce the spread of COVID-19 and other seasonal illnesses including flu and norovirus and help to keep people safe.

[How we can continue to protect ourselves, each other and reduce the spread of COVID-19 - Public health matters \(blog.gov.uk\)](#)

- **Invites are now being sent for the COVID-19 booster**, those who are eligible to receive the vaccine will be asked to contact the national booking service (either via telephone or online) and book an appointment at a number of community pharmacies that are offering the booster in Walsall. Booster vaccine doses will be available for people most at risk from COVID-19 who have had a 2nd dose of a vaccine at least 6 months ago. More information on who is eligible is available at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-booster-vaccine/>
- **The evergreen offer remains in place for people to receive the COVID-19 vaccine** – we are continuing to focus efforts on encouraging those who are pregnant / 16-17 year olds to get the vaccine. A number of locations off walk-in across the Walsall are visit <https://www.blackcountryandwestbirmccg.nhs.uk/your-health-services/health-advice/covid-19-vaccination> to find out where.
- **We are working with a polish speaking GP to produce a video around vaccine hesitancy** – this will be finalised on Monday and we will be working with Mel at Multikulti to get this promoted to polish communities.



- **Those eligible for the flu jab this year will be contacted by their GP practice in the coming weeks to attend a flu clinic and receive a vaccine.**
 - Those eligible include:
 - 50 and over (including those who'll be 50 by 31 March 2022)
 - have certain health conditions
 - are pregnant
 - are in long-stay residential care
 - receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick
 - live with someone who is more likely to get infections (such as someone who has HIV, has had a transplant or is having certain treatments for cancer, lupus or rheumatoid arthritis)
 - frontline health or social care workers
- More information on the vaccine can be found at <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>



Vaccination bus update

- Deployments commenced at the end of June 2021 for Bus 1 and early July for Bus 2
- To date:
 - 3500+ vaccinations
 - 194 deployments
 - 60 different locations
- Currently scheduling up to late-October

Looking at your COVID project as a whole:

1. What are your overall impressions?
2. Can you give two examples of successes?
3. Can you give two examples of learning points?
4. What would you do differently if you were to do the project again?
5. Does your organisation have any plans to carry on with a COVID-related project, either with or without Walsall for All funding?

Discussion

What are your overall impressions?

Very good - good learning to move forward in Walsall. Personally, really liked the pop-up tents and the vaccination bus - bringing the vaccine to the people.

I found the overall project was a great learning experience as it was a very new project in relation to raising awareness of COVID-19, the safety measurements & how we can as a community work together to stop the

Great success - spread the correct information within the community. Vera Group trusted source for information.

Really positive project, very good!

Good learning experience, good start for the newly established community group.

The deployment of the buses was very very and that ground-level engagement has helped address concerns

This Project was a great way for us to get all the correct information to people with learning disabilities without confusing people. We loved that the citizens that we support were able to volunteer at the Vaccine Bus and

Has been an insightful project for us working within the Asian community, we have found a lot of the problem was information not being received correctly. 1/2

So offering the support from the mosque worked very well for us and saw a lot of people change their mind on the vaccinations and even covid testing. 2/2

Has opened another door for people who we have not met before. It has been good experience and learning.

Discussion

Can you give 2 examples of successes?

1. When working alongside the vaccine bus pop-ups we were able to encourage footfall through having conversations with individuals & ensuring any concerns they may have & that they went away having clarity.

2. Being able to engage with our community via running our covid drop in sessions as well as working with the Eden Projects youth group to engage the younger people.

2 examples of successes - case study of individual who was encouraged to have the second dose after listening to our podcast, as well as the learning process of making the podcast

1. Getting younger people to get vaccinated
2. Correcting incorrect information that was being spread online or over WhatsApp

Learned a lot. This was something new. People have been listening to them when they challenged misinformation. They have been trusted.

Enjoyed (and sometimes struggled) getting to know the points of view of our clients about vaccinations.

Our champions reflect the clients we serve and I think that has made all the difference in being able to convey a positive message about the vaccine.

1. Great answer from the public re buses and 2. Being recognised as a multicultural community group

Many people have been technologically isolated. Identified a need to support people outside of COVID.

Setting up Zoom and face to face sessions with Learning disability nurses to help get the most up to date covid information to citizens and also answer any questions they may have. 1/2

Case Study of an individual who attended these sessions who wasn't sure about having the vaccine but with the support of the nurses got the correct information to then make the decision to get the vaccine. 2/2

Inesa's story/
GP registration - importance of having a GP

Loved seeing our champions develop in confidence and building a community in Walsall.

Discussion

Can you give 2 examples of learning points?

Each community needs a different approach

Filtered information from legal sources that had been well translated in individual's native language

1. To be able to have conversations within our communities & being able to give the community the opportunities to have their voices heard regarding covid as well as their well-being.

2. To be able to attend the vaccine pop up buses around different locations in Walsall, to gauge a better understanding of different communities

2 examples - when individuals have strong, fixed opinions- we have to remember we are supporting the decision making process and providing information - we are not making decisions for people. Have to be mindful

Sharing testimonies had a powerful impact on individuals with negative perception on the vaccine

Hand washing, coughing and sneezing etiquette, hygiene behaviour has improved.

Discussion

What would you do differently if you were to do the project again?

I would turn off the comments on social media

I would possibly have just adapted the surveys to give the individuals more of a chance to have their say!

More catch-ups with the volunteers around different topics

Take a more planned and structured approach when creating Case studies to showcase the work going on

Would be good to get small groups of people together to run a little informative sessions

Discussion

Does your organisation have any plans to carry on with a COVID related project, either with or without Walsall for All funding?

Yes we plan to continue to share the correct information across our in person sessions, online and social channels

Yes, would like to continue the work with Walsall for All and continue to make a difference within the communities

Aisha Mosque would love to carry on working with Walsall for All

We will continue to work with Walsall for All as well as other organisations to make a difference where possible to our communities mental health & wellbeing while we continue to work on tackling Covid-19, Kelly - Oak

We definitely carry on to support the community and offer information around Covid19, as we are considered now a trusted source of information

Yes - the grass root engagement is so important

Current COVID projects

- All current projects will cease tomorrow (30 September)
- Please submit your final data and financial claims to your project manager, with associated evidence, by 6 October
- Please do not use the COVID questionnaires after this date
- Contact your project manager if you have any queries

COVID projects post-September 2021 (proposed)

- Target groups will be based on those identified by Public Health, with additions included by Walsall for All. At present, we are still waiting for advice on what these groups might be.
- There will be a new approach based around Walsall for All's integration/social inclusion model which will encourage the support of groups in the post-COVID world, ensuring that inequalities caused by COVID do not persist.
- Anticipated timescale for the projects is from end of October/early November up to March 2022.
- Maximum funding – as yet undecided, but likely to be around £10k-£15k