

Ask for: Joe McDonnell
Email: joe.mcdonnell@walthamforest.gov.uk
Direct line: 020 8496 3000 | Ext: 4632
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Dear Parent or Carer,

Upcoming 12-15 COVID-19 vaccination clinics

You may have seen in the news that rates of COVID-19 are increasing again. Rates in Waltham Forest are currently high and this is particularly the case in school-aged children. In fact, last week, the rate amongst 12-17 year olds had increased by over 130% compared to two weeks before.

We are also increasingly seeing people, especially children, getting reinfected with COVID – so even if your child has had COVID-19 recently, they may well get it again and again. If your child has already had COVID, it may be tempting to think it is now ‘out of the way’, but sadly, that is not the case – and even if it was mild the first time around, that is no guarantee that it will also be mild the next time they catch it.

Vaccination remains the **single best way** to protect your child from serious illness from COVID, especially now that restrictions and testing are ending. One dose gives good protection, and a second dose gives longer lasting protection. There is a significant boost in protection, even in those who have already had COVID before. Getting the vaccination will also reduce the chance that your child has to take time out of school and therefore help to minimise the impact of school absence and isolation on your child’s wellbeing.

Evidence shows that:

- Even if a vaccinated child still catches COVID-19, the vaccine makes it much, much less likely to be harmful
- The immune response after COVID-19 infection can be variable, whereas the response to vaccines is generally strong and consistent
- Being vaccinated helps to keep children in school
- The vaccines have been safely taken by hundreds of millions of children worldwide

We are running vaccination clinics across the borough for children aged 12+ who haven’t had their jabs at school. Family members can also be vaccinated at the same time, this includes those eligible for their spring boosters (those over 75). These clinics will run during the Easter holidays and are offering first and second doses. There are regular sessions at the following locations:

- [Leyton Cricket Club \(E10 6RJ\)](#) Thursdays at 3pm to 6pm (book via our local website; walk-ins also available)
- [Leytonstone Library \(E11 1HG\)](#) Mondays at 12:30pm to 6pm (book via our local website; walk-ins also available)
- [One Hoe Street \(E17 4SD\)](#) Fridays at 2pm to 6pm (book via our local website; walk-ins also available)
- [Jubilee Centre \(E11 4LA\)](#) Sundays 10am to 2pm (book via the National Booking System; walk-ins also available)
- [Walthamstow Library \(E17 7JN\)](#) Saturdays 10am to 1:30pm (book via our local website; walk-ins also available)

- [Leyton Orient Pharmacy \(E10 5LG\)](#) Tuesdays to Friday between 4pm to 6pm, starting from 29th March (book via the National Booking System; walk-ins also available)
- [Wood Street Health Centre \(E17 3LA\)](#) Saturdays 9am to 1pm (book via the National Booking System; walk-ins also available). This site is also vaccinating 5-11 year olds who are in a clinical risk group, and those living with people who have a weakened immune system (immunosuppressed).

Please click on the links above to see the available dates and times (which may be subject to change). You can book via the website; and walk-in appointments are available at most of the clinics. Children under 16 must be accompanied by a parent or guardian.

There are also lots of clinics on offer for those aged 16 and over and clinics are continuously added to the schedule. The latest dates and times can be found on the website: <https://linktr.ee/lbwalthamforest>.

For those of you who are parents of a child aged 5-11, we will share information on when those primary school age children will be able to be vaccinated shortly (expected from 4th April) as well as the vaccination locations, which will include Wood Street Health Centre.

Yours faithfully,



Joe McDonnell
Director of Public Health, Waltham Forest

Information about the vaccine

The medicines regulator, the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA), has confirmed the Pfizer vaccine is safe and effective for 12 to 17 year olds. This followed a rigorous review of the safety, quality and effectiveness of the vaccines in this age group.

Scroll down to find this [video](#) which answers frequently asked questions about the vaccination for 12-15 year olds.

Please click on the links below for more information about the 12-15 vaccination programme:

- [COVID-19 vaccination programme for children and young people – guidance for parents](#)
- [A simple diagram to explain the process](#)
- [A handy document to explain to your child about the COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- [Frequently asked questions on vaccines for 12-15 year old](#)