

December 02, 2021

Changes to the Bolton Covid-19 vaccination programme

You've probably heard the plans to expand the Covid-19 vaccination programme in response to the Omicron variant.

We welcome this development to provide more boosters to more people, and we're working hard to get things ready for you.

We're expecting more detail very soon and will keep you updated, so bear with us while we prepare for the challenge ahead!

The new plans include extending the booster jab to everyone aged 18 and over, as well as enabling people to come forward three months after their second dose instead of the current six months.

As soon as we're ready, we'll let you know so please don't attend a walk-in clinic for your booster unless you are **already eligible**.

Also, please don't contact your GP practice about vaccinations as phone lines need to be kept free for other health issues.

As well as preparing our walk-in sites, you should also be able to book an appointment online via the National Booking System (NBS) from December 13. Visit <https://bit.ly/3aWlkkM> or call 119 after this date. People will be invited to get their booster in age order.

If you are in one of the **current eligible groups**, then please still get your vaccination. It's never too late to get even your first dose if you haven't already. Don't put it off!

Just to recap, people already eligible can attend walk-in clinics in Bolton or book online/call 119 for their vaccination. These include:

- first dose, those aged 12 and over
- second dose, those aged 16/17 if it has been 12 weeks since their first
- second dose, those aged 18 and over if it has been 8 weeks since their first
- third dose, those aged 12 and over who are eligible and have an NHS invitation
- booster, those aged 40 and over, health and social care workers, and some aged 16 or over if eligible. Booster should be at least 6 months after second dose

Not all walk-in sites are accepting all groups, so please check the Bolton CCG website for information <https://bit.ly/Covid19walkin>. Our helpful guide explains in more detail who is currently eligible: <https://bit.ly/Vaccguide>

If you need additional help with booking a second, third or booster dose, you can contact NHS Bolton CCG on: 01204 462125, 462157, 462028. Phone lines are open Monday to Friday, 8.30am to 5.30pm, for Bolton callers only.

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