

Gwybodaeth Brechlyn COVID-19 Ym Mhowys

Information about COVID-19 Vaccination in Powys

12 Rhagfyr 2021 / 12 December 2021

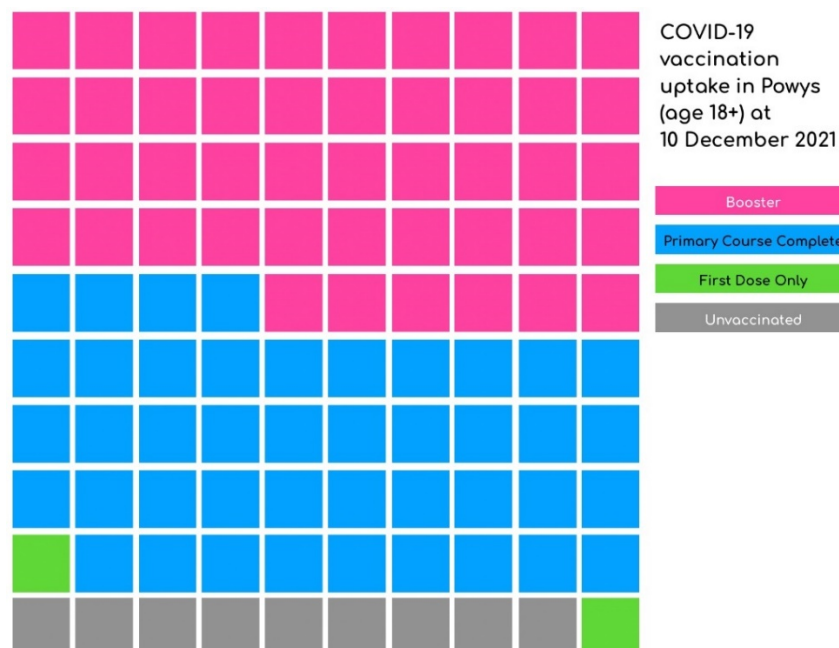
Dear Colleagues

Since our last edition, we have seen major changes in national guidance on boosters. Following the identification of the Omicron variant, boosters are now being offered to all eligible over 18s, and can be offered from 3 months after completion of a primary course. We have been working hard to ramp up our vaccination programme in response to the new guidance. And this week we reached an important milestone as **half of over 18s in Powys who completed a primary course have now received their booster. This is amongst the highest rates in the UK.**

If you are 50+ then your invitation letter should be reaching you early this week if it has not done so already (as long as it is more than three months since your primary course) so [please get in touch](#) if you have not received your invitation.

Taking up your COVID-19 booster invitation when you receive it is now even more important, as there are now 15 confirmed cases of Omicron in Wales (as at Saturday 11 December) and cases in Powys are sadly inevitable.

The chart below summarises our progress so far, showing the percentage of adults who have received their booster (pink), have completed their primary course (blue), have received their first dose (green) or are unvaccinated (grey).



More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine

Current Headlines

1	Boosters	<p>Booster appointments are under way. Following new national guidance last week, we are ramping up our programme. Boosters will be offered to all adults in Powys by the end of January 2022, in line with the target for Wales and England.</p> <p>Booster appointments are by invitation letter. If you are 50+ then you should receive your invitation early this week if it has not arrived already (as long as it is more than three months since your primary course) so please get in touch if you have not received your invitation.</p> <p>Invitation letters to people under 50 have already begun. Look out for your invitation letter in the post. We aim to issue nearly all invitation letters to people aged 18+ by Christmas (post permitting).</p>
2	16-17	<p>Second doses are now recommended for all 16-17 year olds. Second doses should be at least 12 weeks after the first dose, and at least 12 weeks after confirmed COVID infection. Invitations are under way. If it is more than 12 weeks since your first dose then you should receive an invitation for an appointment before the end of December.</p>
3	12-15	<p>Second doses are now recommended for all 12-15 year olds. Second doses should be at least 12 weeks after the first dose, and at least 12 weeks after confirmed COVID infection. If your first dose appointment was in October you should receive an invitation letter soon for a second dose appointment in January.</p>
4	Drop-In	<p>First dose vaccination for people age 12+ and second dose vaccination for people age 18+ continue to be available on a drop-in basis. Check out our drop-in clinics for more details.</p>
5	Pregnancy	<p>COVID-19 infection in pregnancy carries a significant risk of hospital admission and a higher risk of severe illness than for the non-pregnant population. If you are pregnant or breastfeeding you can attend our drop-in clinics for first and second dose vaccination, or talk to your Powys midwife to find out more about COVID-19 vaccination.</p>
6	Q&A	<p>Our next online Q&A session is taking place on 14 December to answer your questions about COVID-19 in Powys.</p>
7	Find out more	<p>You can continue to find all the latest information about COVID-19 vaccination at pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine</p>

More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine

Update from the Programme Director

This week we celebrated the first anniversary of our COVID-19 vaccine programme.

A little over one year ago we received our first supplies of COVID-19 vaccine, which followed less than a week after the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA) approved the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine for use in the UK.

After weeks of planning the COVID-19 vaccination programme began on 8 December 2020, with our first clinic opening in Bronllys (pictured below).



Within a week we had opened in Newtown, initially in Park Street before moving to the Maldwyn Leisure Centre in January when our centre at the Showground also opened. Working together these three clinics continue to provide the focus for our successful vaccination programme in the county.

Since then we have successfully administered over a quarter of a million doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Thousands of hours have been given by health board staff, supported by our incredible volunteers and all our partner organisations.

But most importantly we have received fantastic support from the people of Powys, who have come forward in their thousands, and are still doing so today for their booster doses.

- 91.3% of adults have taken up their first dose, and 89.3% have taken up their second dose. This is the highest rate of all health boards in Wales.
- 45% of adults have now taken up their booster. This is also the highest rate of all health boards in Wales, and means that half of all eligible adults (those who have completed their primary course) have received their booster.
- 85.0% of 16-17 year olds have taken up their first dose, and 55.4% have already received their second dose (with appointments currently taking place). This is the highest rate of all health boards in Wales.
- 64.8% of 12-15 year olds have taken up their first dose. This is the highest rate of all health boards in Wales. Second doses will get under way early in 2022.

The collective achievement by and for the county is humbling. Thank you.

*Adrian Osborne
Programme Director (COVID-19 Vaccination and TTP)
Powys Teaching Health Board*

More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine

Get A Test
Coel Prowf

Omicron variant identified in Wales

Fifteen cases of the Omicron variant have been confirmed in Wales (as at 11 December 2021). Cases have also been confirmed in Shropshire and Herefordshire. Whilst Omicron has not yet been confirmed in Powys, cases are sadly inevitable.

Together with Public Health Wales colleagues we are closely monitoring the situation and this will continue in the coming weeks.

While we are all doing everything we can to keep safe, there are steps we can all take to Keep Powys Safe:

- Follow [national guidance from Welsh Government](#) and [local guidance](#).
- Get your COVID-19 vaccination – drop in for your first and second dose if you have not yet received it, take up your booster invitation when you receive it.
- Get your flu vaccination.
- Be vigilant with good hygiene practices to avoid spreading infection in our communities.
- Good ventilation is important if indoors and remember outdoors is safer where possible.
- Keep a safe distance.
- Everyone must wear face coverings in most other indoor public places, in accordance with the law, including in cinemas and theatre auditoriums. You are also encouraged to wear face coverings in pubs, nightclubs and restaurants when you aren't eating, drinking or dancing.
- Carry out twice-weekly LFD self-tests and particularly before going into higher risk situations, such as spending time in crowded or enclosed spaces (e.g. Christmas parties; Christmas shopping); visiting people who are at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19; or travelling to other areas of Wales or the UK. Please remember to [report the result of your LFD test online](#) or by calling 119.
- If your LFD test is positive, don't go out. [Arrange for a PCR test](#) and self-isolate.

More information about Coronavirus Testing in Powys is available from the Powys Teaching Health Board website at <https://pthb.nhs.wales/find/ttp>

For more information and advice about reducing your risk of contracting and spreading the virus visit: www.gov.wales/keepwalesafe

Together we will Keep Powys Safe.

More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine

Booster Atgyfnerthu

1. Booster Programme accelerates in Powys

Half of people who completed their primary course have now received their booster in Powys. This is great progress less than three months since booster guidance was published, and once again means that we have one of the most rapid delivery programmes in the country.

New guidance was issued last week by the JCVI expanding eligibility for the booster to all over 18s. So, we have been working hard to ramp up our programme. We have added extra vaccination lanes and more days to our mass vaccination centres so that we can boost more people more quickly.

Everyone aged 18 and over will be invited for a booster by the end of January (in line with the national target for Wales and England), as long as it is more than 13 weeks since their second dose and more than four weeks since confirmed COVID infection.

Based on the updated national guidance on 29 November, new invitations are now being issued in the following order to people whose second dose was more than three months ago:

- People aged 80 and over, and frontline health & care workers (including care home workers)
- People aged 75-79
- People aged 70-74 and people with conditions that make them clinically extremely vulnerable to severe illness from COVID-19
- People aged 65-69
- People aged 16-64 with underlying health conditions that make them more vulnerable to serious illness from COVID-19
- People aged 60-64
- People aged 55-59
- People aged 50-54
- People aged 40-49
- People aged 30-39
- People aged 18-29

If you are 50+ then you should receive your invitation early this week if it has not arrived already (as long as it is more than three months since your primary course) so **[please get in touch](#)** if you have not received your invitation.

Invitation letters to people under 50 are well under way. Look out for your invitation letter in the post. We aim to issue nearly all invitation letters to people aged 18+ by Christmas (post permitting). This will offer you an appointment date between now and mid-late January.

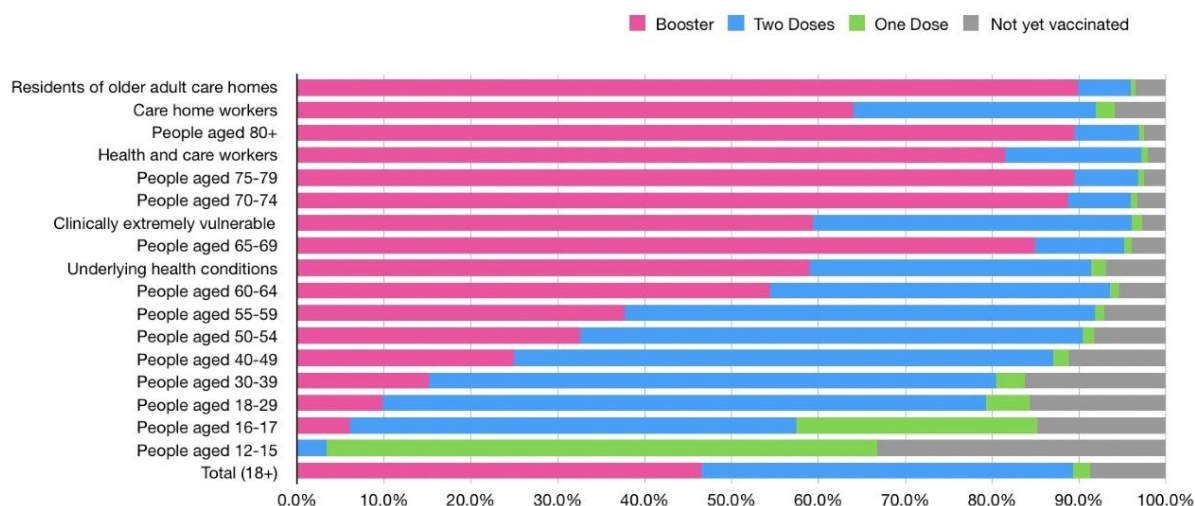
More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine

And we do need your help:

- **Please do everything you can to attend the first appointment we offer you.** You may have to wait several weeks for a replacement appointment. You can [use our online form](#) if you cannot attend the date we offer.
- **Please do NOT contact us to find out when your appointment will be.** You will receive an invitation letter in the priority order above, based on age and vulnerability.
- **Please aim to arrive on time** (not too early, not too late) for your appointment. This helps to reduce waiting, and to improve traffic flow.
- **Thank you for your patience and flexibility.** We are issuing more booster invitations than ever before, and this does mean that you might receive your appointment at short notice.
- **Thank you for helping friends, families and neighbours** to get to their booster appointment safely.
- **Please do dress for the weather**, but with layers so that we can reach your arm to vaccinate you. You may need to queue outside at peak times. We are sorry for this, and we are working as quickly as possible to vaccinate everyone.
- **Join our reserve list if you meet our current eligibility criteria** (currently 50+ or frontline health & care worker). More information is available [on our reserve list page](#).

Booster doses are normally by invitation to a mass vaccination centre, so please do look out for your invitation letter. We don't currently have open drop-in for boosters. This is because we will be able to boost more people who are more vulnerable more quickly if we continue to focus on appointments.

The chart below gives you an idea of how our booster programme (pink) is progressing. Many people in the older age groups have already taken up their invitation and have received their boosters. Lots of appointments are currently taking place for people aged 50-64 and for adults with underlying conditions.



Powys COVID Vaccination - 10pm on 9 December 2021
(source: provisional management information - PHW vaccination summary/WIS)
Age group categories will also include individuals eligible in other categories (e.g. health & care workers)

More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine

More information about our booster programme is available from our website, where you can also find details of our reserve list:

[Booster Programme](#)

[Reserve List for Booster Dose Appointments](#)

[Priority Access Form for Booster Dose Appointments](#)

16-17 years old
16-17 oed

2. COVID-19 Vaccination for 16-17 year olds

Since our last edition, the JCVI has recommended second doses for 16-17 year olds. Second doses should be at least 12 weeks after the first dose, and at least 12 weeks after confirmed COVID infection.

Around 85% of this age group have already taken up their first dose. Invitations are now under way for second doses. We expect to offer second dose appointments by the end of December. **Look out for your invitation soon if you have not received it already.**

First doses continue to be available on a drop-in basis. We anticipate that second dose drop-in will be open to 16-17 year olds from early 2022.

[COVID-19 Vaccination for people age 16 to 17](#)

[Drop-in Clinics](#)

12-15 years old
12-15 oed

3. COVID-19 Vaccination for 12-15 year olds

Since our last edition, the JCVI has recommended second doses for 12-15 year olds. Second doses should be at least 12 weeks after the first dose, and at least 12 weeks after confirmed COVID infection.

More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine

Around 65% of this age group have already taken up their first dose. We expect to offer second dose appointments from January, which will be at least 12 weeks after first doses took place in October, in line with national guidance. Look out for invitation letters from later this month.

First doses continue to be available on a drop-in basis. We anticipate that second dose drop-in will be open to 12-15 year olds by February or March 2022.

COVID-19 Vaccination for people age 12 to 15

Drop-in Clinics

Drop-In Clinics
Clinigau Galw Heibio

4. First and Second Dose Drop-In Clinics

First dose COVID-19 vaccination remains available for everyone aged 12 and over at our regular drop-in clinics. Second dose COVID-19 vaccination is available on a drop-in basis for anyone aged 18 and over. Drop-in clinics are advertised through our social media channels, and the latest information is also available from our website.

Drop-ins are not currently available for boosters. Boosters are currently by appointment, as this helps us boost more people who are more vulnerable more quickly. But drop-in arrangements can change at short notice (for example, if we have high levels of cancellations for a specific clinic date and location) so do keep checking our website and social media channels for details.

Drop-In Clinics

Pregnancy
Beichiogrwydd

5. COVID-19 Vaccination and Pregnancy

COVID-19 infection in pregnancy carries a significant risk of hospital admission and a higher risk of severe illness than for the non-pregnant population – especially so in

the third trimester. Across the country we are seeing that pregnant mothers are more likely to be admitted to hospital with serious illness from COVID-19.

Our First and Second Dose Drop-In Clinics are here for you if you are pregnant or breastfeeding and would like your COVID-19 vaccine. You can also talk to your Powys Midwife about the options available to you.

More information is available from our website. This includes links to specialist advice from the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists:

[Vaccination & Pregnancy](#)

Online Q&A 14 December 2021
HacA ar-lein 14 Rhagfyr 2021

6. Online Q&A Session - 5.30pm-6.30pm, Tuesday 14 December 2021

Our next online Q&A session will take place at 5.30pm on Tuesday 14 December.

How do I join?

You can join the session from most web browsers by clicking on [this link](#).

When do I join?

You are welcome to join just before 5.30pm by clicking on the link above. The meeting will start shortly after 5.30pm to allow people time to join.

How do I participate?

This event will be provided through Microsoft Teams Live Event. It includes a Q&A function which allows you to ask questions. We regret that we may not have time to answer all the questions raised, but hope that the briefing will provide an opportunity to cover the main themes.

I am having trouble joining

The briefing will be recorded so that it is available for people who have trouble joining, or who are not available to join us at 5.30pm. More information about being an attendee of a Microsoft Teams Live Event is available from the [Microsoft website](#)

I cannot attend – will I still be able to watch?

You can watch the event from 15 December onwards [using the web link](#).

Where can I watch the briefing in November?

Our last briefing in November is available to watch [on our YouTube channel](#).

More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine

Latest Information Gwybodaeth Ddiweddaraf

7. Latest information on COVID-19 Vaccination in Powys

You can find all the latest information about COVID-19 vaccination on our website.

- Our daily update brings you the latest information about our programme, and on each Priority Group: [Daily Update - Powys Teaching Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](#)
- Our main vaccination page has useful information based on your age or health condition: [COVID-19 Vaccination - Powys Teaching Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](#)
- You can share your experience to help us improve:
 - CY: [Eich adborth am frechu COVID-19 ym Mhowys - Bwrdd Iechyd Addysgu Powys \(gig.cymru\)](#)
 - EN: [Your feedback about COVID-19 vaccination in Powys - Powys Teaching Health Board \(nhs.wales\)](#)

Latest information on COVID-19 Vaccination in Wales

More information about the national COVID-19 vaccination programme in Wales is available from the Public Health Wales website:

- [Iechyd Cyhoeddus Cymru](#) (CY) and [Public Health Wales](#) (EN)

The latest information about the number of COVID-19 vaccination doses delivered in Wales is available from the Public Health Wales dashboard:

- [Public Health Wales dashboard](#)

More information about the Welsh Government's strategy for COVID-19 vaccination:

- [Llywodraeth Cymru](#) (CY) and [Welsh Government](#) (EN)

Jobs Swyddi

8. Job Opportunities

We have lots of great opportunities to join our team here at Powys Teaching Health Board. This includes opportunities to join our Test Trace Protect and Vaccination Teams. You can find all our current opportunities on our website:

More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine

- CY: www.biap.gig.cymru/swyddi
- EN: www.pthb.nhs.wales/jobs

Please help spread the word about our latest vacancies.



You can follow Powys Teaching Health Board on Facebook, and @PTHBhealth and @BIAPiechyd on Twitter for the latest social media updates from the health board.



More information about the COVID-19 vaccination programme in Powys is available from our website at: www.pthb.nhs.wales/covid-vaccine