

Subject: WDC Hub Update 08/02/21

Dear Town and Parish Colleagues,

We continue to receive customers calling in relation to the Community Hub which has recently reduced after an initial increase. The majority of enquiries to the hub continue to be about assisting customers to access priority food delivery slots. This week we have also delivered food boxes to a few very appreciative residents.

Please visit our website for much more information about the support and guidance we can provide <https://www.wealden.gov.uk/press-and-media/coronavirus-covid-19-latest/community-support/> Town and Parish Councils remain a key part of the infrastructure in ensuring we can respond to demand from some of the most vulnerable members of society. More information about current infection rates can be found here <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk/>

- **COVID-19 Vaccination Programme** – mass vaccination centres have now opened in Eastbourne and the Brighton Centre in addition to the local GP-led vaccination services that now cover all patients in Sussex, and select pharmacy-led services that are also available through the national booking system.
Residents who are eligible for a vaccination, and who live within a 60-mile radius of one of the vaccination centres, are being written to directly by the NHS and invited to book an appointment.
While GPs invite their patients to get vaccinated at their local vaccination service, appointments at the vaccination centres are made through the national booking service. The national booking service writes to eligible people living within 60 miles of a vaccination centre, inviting them to book an appointment at the centre online or over the phone.
Anyone receiving a letter from the national booking service can choose whether to book an appointment at the vaccination centre, or wait until they are contacted by their GP for an appointment at their local vaccination service if they prefer. There is also now a roving service where the vaccine is being taken into care homes and into people's own homes if they cannot attend a vaccination site. This is being stepped up over the coming weeks as more supplies of the vaccines become available.
- **Ethnic minority communities** - Please find attached the latest briefing on the Covid vaccine, specifically appealing to ethnic minority communities. The three messages you can support us in promoting are:
 1. The NHS will contact you when it's your turn. Services are very busy providing care and rolling out the vaccine, so please wait to be contacted.
 2. Please act on your invite when it comes.
 3. The vaccine is one of our best defences against COVID-19 but for now it is still essential that we do all we can to stop the spread of the virus. Adhering to the current restrictions and remembering hands, face and space will save lives and help the NHS.
- **Community testing** – East Sussex County Council is working on developing a community testing program. It will test people who do not have symptoms of COVID-19 and are unable to work from home. Further details are available

here; <https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/community/emergencyplanningandcommunitysafety/coronavirus/coronavirus-tests-sussex/>

- **Shielding** - continues for clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) people across the country. Those in the CEV group should not attend work, school, college or university, and limit the time they spend outside the home. They should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential. East Sussex County Council are continuing to call people in the clinically extremely vulnerable group and have now had contact with over 11,000 people, either by phone, email or letter. The proportion of people they have spoken to who have needed support with food access or other needs continues to be around the 6% mark. Further details can be found here; <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-on-shielding-and-protecting-extremely-vulnerable-persons-from-covid-19>
- **NHS Volunteer Responders** have asked to reach out to all our colleagues to emphasise the need for more volunteers. The scheme remains open to registration for volunteers in Eastbourne Hastings, Rother, and Wealden. <https://nhsvolunteerresponders.org.uk/i-want-to-volunteer>

I hope this information is of assistance and please note that these emails are an interpretation of government guidelines which can be accessed via <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

Thank you for your help and continued support.

Council Offices | Vicarage Lane | Hailsham | East Sussex | BN27 2AX