



Booster jabs for the most vulnerable

The government has announced that a Covid-19 booster vaccine will be offered this autumn.

The priority groups for the booster jab are:

- people aged over 50
- care home residents
- health and social care workers
- those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe Covid-19
- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals.



People can only receive the booster six months after their second dose.

Eligible people will be contacted about booking their booster vaccination.

[Autumn Boosters - more info](#)

Vaccinations for 12 to 15 year olds

It's been confirmed by the government that all children aged 12-15 years old will be offered a dose of the Covid-19 vaccine at their school.

One dose of the Pfizer Covid-19 vaccine will be offered and given by trained NHS staff in the same way vaccines for flu and HPV are administered at school.

Every parent, guardian or carer will receive a letter with the details about their school, the consent process, and next steps.

Jabs for 12 to 15 year olds

Test, test - and test again

As winter approaches and we spend more time indoors the risk of infection increases.

Regular testing for coronavirus helps stop the spread and protects those around us. Make testing part of your routine to give you peace of mind when you're out and about.

There are lots of ways to have a test:

- order Lateral Flow Tests [online](#) to be delivered to your home
- pick up test kits at [selected pharmacies and libraries](#)
- have a supervised test at a local pharmacy. [Find a pharmacy](#)

If you test positive or have any symptoms you must take a PCR test. Book [online](#) or call 119.

- Find out more about testing [here](#).

Please remember to do all you can to reduce the spread – wash your hands, cover your face, leave space and let fresh air in.

Latest Covid-19 statistics for West Sussex

In the seven days to Friday 24 September there were **2,223** new confirmed cases of coronavirus in West Sussex. Compared to the previous week, confirmed cases are rising. Remember to keep checking infection rates in your area by visiting [our Data Dashboard](#) and please share the link with family and friends.

Please note: The local Covid-19 test site at Northgate car park in Chichester will be undergoing a redesign and will be unavailable from 8pm on Monday 4 October and is expected to resume fully at 8am on 9 October. You will still be able to book a PCR test at the test sites in Tangmere and Havant or order a [home test kit here](#).



Local help for jobseekers



The government's Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme (Furlough) ends today (Thursday 30 September).

If you're looking for a new job or thinking about making a change, take a look at [JobHelp](#) for support, training and advice on getting employment.

Here's how we can help locally if you are looking for work or want to change or start a new career:

- Our libraries can help [new and established businesses, and jobseekers](#), including free online business resources that can help you to start your own business, continue studying, build professional skills and connect with others.
- Search our [job pages](#) for current local vacancies at the county council and our partners.
- Search and apply for apprenticeships [here](#).

If you were made redundant whilst on furlough find out [what your rights are here](#).

Your local Citizens Advice can provide free and independent advice on money worries – they are here for you in West Sussex. Find out more about your options [here](#) or call the Adviceline on 0808 278 7969.

If you're struggling with suicidal thoughts, please reach out to someone. There is always help available for you. Call the free Sussex Mental Healthline now on 0800 0309 500 and visit www.preventingsuicideinsussex.org

Fuel situation update

It can be unsettling when we see people queuing for fuel, but the government has been quite clear that there is no shortage of fuel and there is plenty to go round.

We would urge residents to think carefully and not buy fuel unnecessarily for this short period until local supplies are restored.



We can look after our communities if we all play our part and only use what we need.

Sussex Resilience Forum

Flexible working consultation



The government has launched a consultation seeking views from individuals and businesses on proposals to reform flexible working regulations as part of their plans to modernise the way we work.

The consultation looks at a range of flexible working methods such as job-sharing, flexitime, compressed, annualised and staggered hours, as well as phased retirement – not just working from

home.

The proposals have been prompted following the Covid-19 national lockdowns when employers made arrangements for their staff to work from home and adopt more flexible hours where possible.

Closing date is Wednesday 1 December 2021.

[Take part in the consultation here](#)

Love your local library

Get ready for [Libraries Week](#) (4-10 October) – a great opportunity to discover what's on offer in your local library.

Did you know that you can [reserve and borrow](#) up to 20 items for **free**? You can even download books, audiobooks, magazines, newspapers and comics from the [eLibrary](#), including many titles to support your mental health from the [Reading Well](#) collection.



Why not join the conversation with 750 West Sussex readers in the [Facebook Virtual Reading Group](#) and find your next great book?

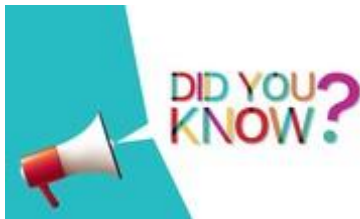
Families can join the [Facebook Family Corner Group](#) where librarians support your child's reading by sharing stories, songs and quality information on a daily basis.

Not a library member? Not a problem! [Join online today](#).

What's on offer at your library?

More news...

- [Winter opening hours of 9am – 4pm start at our 11 Recycling Centres tomorrow \(Friday 1 October\).](#)
- Smoking remains the largest preventable cause of illness and premature death. Take part in #Stoptober this year and join the thousands of people who have quit smoking during this month long challenge which has been running for 10 years. [Click here for help and support](#) and quit for good.
- Help us plan transport for future generations by having your say on our [Draft West Sussex Transport Plan \(WSTP\)](#) before it ends at midnight next Friday (8 October).



October is Walk to School Month – so if you can, leave the car at home and get those legs moving! You'll find you notice so much more when you walk rather than sit in a car. It's also healthier and better for the environment.

[Find out more about making your journey to school, college or work greener this autumn.](#)

Know someone who would like to receive this eNewsletter?

If anyone you know who would like to sign up for this bulletin, please forward this eNewsletter to them and they can [sign up here](#). Thank you for your support.



CORONAVIRUS

**SYMPTOM FREE COVID-19
TESTING IS NOW AVAILABLE.
KEEP EACH OTHER SAFE,
TEST TWICE A WEEK.**

westsussex.gov.uk/communitytesting

