

Axminster Division Report 1st September 2021

Devon – enhanced COVID response area

As the peak summer holiday season begins to draw to its conclusion it has clearly been an economically good one in the South West, including East Devon. However, it appears the trade off with our big temporary population swelling hugely when compared to the permanent one, the downside is that Covid case rates in Devon are currently very high, especially in our late teens and younger adults, which is to be expected since the removal of restrictions, the opening up of opportunities to socialise, and our popularity as a major visitor destination.

The impact of coronavirus is being felt hard across the entire health and social care system, with those services struggling to cope with demand and workforce pressures. The number of cases are rising again nationally, and in Devon, they are far higher (622 per 100,000 of the population) than the latest national average (332).

The government has designated Devon, Cornwall, Plymouth, Torbay and the Isles of Scilly, an ‘enhanced response area’, in response to high case rates of coronavirus. It means additional support will be available from the government, to those areas for the next 5 weeks in order to try and reduce infection case numbers.

It doesn't mean another local lockdown, but it does mean that authorities across the south west have more flexibility to introduce additional public health measures if considered necessary, to those in other parts of the country.

Public Health Devon is urging people to:

- Limit your social contacts to stop the virus spreading
- meet others outside, because that's safer than meeting inside
- continue to wear face coverings when indoors in public places
- wash your hands properly and regularly
- have the jab if you are an adult and haven't yet had it. Please have both doses as soon as you can. If you're aged 16 to 18, please take up the vaccination when offered to you
- self-isolate if told to do so by NHS Test and Trace
- self-isolate and arranging a PCR test if you show any symptoms of having the virus – the high temperature, new and continuous cough, or change of your usual sense of taste or smell

Covid news and Vaccination Programme update

- Uptake of the vaccine among 16/17-year-olds has been high
- More than 1.7m doses of the Covid-19 vaccine have been given in Devon
- Between 8 December and 22 August **917,236** first doses have been given while **809,425** second doses have been given; a total of **1,726,661** doses.
- People who have both vaccine doses or are under 18 don't have to self-isolate if they are identified as a close contact of someone with Covid-19.
- You can book an appointment online or by calling 119
- The Devon Vaccine Support Team can support carers who can't leave the person they care for or those who can't use the national booking system because they aren't registered with a GP.
- Contact: d-ccg.devonvaccinationsupport@nhs.net / 01752 398836

Support the health and care system by getting vaccinated

Employment opportunities

For a variety of well-publicised reasons there are a wide variety of job vacancies across many sectors of our economy including retail, hospitality and commercial. For those looking for a long-term career path or simply a change of direction new staff are needed across all sectors of the health and social care sectors.

There are opportunities from apprentice, to part and full time The Proud to care campaign provided plenty of information and links to jobs including those in the Axminster area at <https://www.proudtocaredevon.org.uk/>

Devon jobs at <https://www.devonjobs.gov.uk/> is another resource advertising many vacancies, as is the EDDC <https://jobs.eastdevon.gov.uk/> and please share these links to anyone who you think might be interested in seeking employment.