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Ulverston News



The Covid-19 vaccine roll-out is starting

Vaccinations Update 15th January

The first batch of vaccine arrived in Ulverston on the morning of Friday 15th January. However, this was a day later than expected, so patients who were due to be vaccinated on Friday morning unfortunately had their appointments postponed. Friday afternoon appointments went ahead successfully. Appointments for Saturday will take place as planned, with the addition of appointments deferred from Friday.

The volunteer stewards who participated on Friday were blessed with good weather, if a little chilly. There was lots of socially-distanced chit-chat, and a general feeling of elation and relief that the vaccination programme had started. Many thanks to every one of our volunteers who contributed to this achievement.

We have 140 volunteer stewards registered now, which is a fantastic number. If you are already a subscriber to this mailing list and wish to volunteer, we will still accept your volunteer application. For now, we won't be accepting volunteer applications from any new subscribers, as we'd like to focus on training the volunteers that we do have, and making sure that we build up some experience and learning in the team.

So for the final time, this newsletter gives instructions on how to sign up as a non-clinical stewarding volunteer for Covid-19 vaccinations at Ulverston Health Centre, if you have not already done so.





Cumbria County Update

Cumbria has experienced its worst week so far for new COVID-19 infections, with 3,489 people testing positive in the week ending 8 January - a 39% rise on the previous week.

Infection rates are high across the county, especially in Carlisle where the infection rate was 1,151 per 100,000 population.

Hospitals remain under intense pressure, particularly in the north of the county where there has been a 63% increase in the number of COVID-19 patients since last week. There are now around 270 people being treated in north Cumbrian hospitals.

Sadly, a further 59 people have died from COVID-19 in the seven days to 12 January. This brings the total number of COVID-19 deaths in Cumbria since the start of the pandemic to 833.

Colin Cox, Cumbria's Director of Public Health, said:

"We remain in an extremely serious situation. In the very latest provisional data, there are some early signs that the rate of increase in new infections may be slowing, but the infection rate is still very high.

"Even if that trend continues, we can expect the very high numbers of people requiring hospital care, and increasing deaths, to continue for some weeks. This is putting our local NHS system under intense pressure.

"I cannot stress strongly enough how important it is that we all follow the lockdown rules. The virus spreads when people come into contact, we must do everything we can to stop unnecessary contact with other people. Where being in contact with others is unavoidable, keep your distance, wear a mask, wash your hands - it does make a difference."



Covid-19 Vaccinations Volunteering

The vaccination programme requires volunteers for non-clinical stewarding roles. No experience is required, as training and supervision will be provided. Specific responsibilities include supervising vehicle movements and parking in the health centre car park, supervising and providing assistance to patients and their carers who are waiting in the queue to be vaccinated, and directing patients and carers to vaccination and waiting areas within the health centre building.

If you have medical qualifications and experience, and would like to volunteer to assist with the clinical aspects of the vaccinations, please contact Dr Murray & Partners directly by email at cuccg.ulverstonhealth@nhs.net

Ulverston Self Isolation Group

Non-clinical Covid-19 vaccination stewarding at Ulverston Health Centre is being managed by the



Ulverston Self Isolation Group, a voluntary organisation providing support to residents of the LA12 postcode area.

This group is based in Ulverston, and covers a widespread area, as far as Lindal and Marton in the west, and the Crake valley in the north and east.

We recognise that the Ulverston vaccination centre covers residents throughout mid-Furness, and we want to be as inclusive as possible regarding volunteering opportunities. This is not just an "Ulverston show". We all live in the same Furness community, and we hope that everyone feels equally involved.

Please note, we have started to use the name "Ulverston Resilience Group" for some activities, so if you see that name, it's us!

Terms and Conditions

We recognise that everyone is a volunteer, and not paid employees, so we want to keep this simple and reasonable. Nevertheless, we need a few rules just to keep everything straight, and we will need you to confirm that you understand and accept them.

Please read the following, before moving on to the next step.

1. Safety is the number one priority. Volunteers must never knowingly put themselves or anyone else at risk of injury or infection.
2. Volunteers must be aged 17 or over at the time of carrying out their shift(s).
3. Volunteers do not require DBS clearance, but must not take part if they have ever been refused DBS clearance in the past.
4. Volunteers must commit to wearing a face mask, which will be supplied by the NHS, at all times when they are working.
5. Volunteers must wear an NHS ID tag which must be visible at all times when they are working.
6. Volunteers should make all reasonable efforts to keep their personal non-availability information on the shift management system up to date, and to respond to emails and/or texts from the rota manager as quickly as possible.
7. We would prefer volunteers to choose their own shifts, but we reserve the right to allocate shifts if necessary. We do this as fairly as possible, and will fully respect your recorded non-availability times.
8. Volunteers should aim to arrive 10 minutes before the start of their allocated shift(s), and leave when their shift completes.
9. Volunteers may cancel or swap shifts, but should try to avoid doing this within 2 days of their allocated shift, unless absolutely unavoidable.
10. Volunteers should inform the rota manager by phone if they are unable to attend at very short notice.
11. Volunteers should not take part if they are clinically extremely vulnerable or have any other significant health concerns.
12. Volunteers should follow any reasonable instructions from the shift manager, particularly relating to safety.

How do I sign up?

Great! Hopefully you've read everything above, and you want to know what to do next. If you've skipped the Terms and Conditions section, please go back and read it now.

If you are content with the Terms and Conditions, and want to confirm yourself as a volunteer, we need you to do the following.

At the foot of this email is a link that says "Update your preferences". You'll see the same link on every newsletter that we send you. Please click on the link, and then make sure that your first name, last name, email address, and mobile phone number are correct.

Then tick the Covid-19 Vaccination Stewarding Ts & Cs confirmation box, and click the Update button at the bottom of the form to save the changes. This confirms that you have read and accepted the Terms and Conditions, and are

willing to be added to our shift rota.

If you do not want to volunteer, then that's fine. You don't need to do anything else. We'll keep sending you our normal fortnightly newsletter.

What happens next?

If you sign up as described above, then we will add you to our RotaCentral shift management system. Please allow 24 hours for us to do this. You will receive a welcome email and SMS text. Follow the instructions in the email to set up any times when you are not available, and also to volunteer for shifts when they come available. We will keep you informed of any important developments by email and/or SMS.

If you need help, phone us on 01229 357951, or reply to this email newsletter.

Thanks for your support

About Ulverston News

Our fortnightly newsletter covers Ulverston events and community matters. We also send email and SMS alerts regarding significant incidents.

Ulverston News Website: ulverston.com
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