

County Councillor report January 2021

Covid-19 update.

Over the past months I have bombarded you with diagrams, graphs with infection rates, death rates and generally quite depressing news. This month I want to concentrate on the more positive aspects. The infection and death rates, though still high and so very sad, are stabilising mainly due to the present lockdown restrictions. I hope that within the next few weeks we should be seeing results of the vaccination programme coming through. However, if you wish for more local data on infection and death rates, just use this link and insert your postcode. <https://coronavirus.data.gov.uk>

COVID-19 Vaccination update

The vaccination programme is now well underway. In our local area an incredible 15 Primary Care Sites have been opened and two additional Hospital Hubs over the last 2-3 weeks alone, which now gives us full area coverage.

The rollout of the vaccination programme in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough is on track to offer vaccinations to the top four priority cohorts by the middle of February. Thousands of vulnerable local people have already received their first vaccination, with thousands more being vaccinated every day. Recent national news reports of the expansion of the vaccination programme to people in their 70s or who are clinically extremely vulnerable, is good news as it means they can start to vaccinate these other priority groups once they have offered the vaccination to the priority groups first. Cambridgeshire and Peterborough CCG continue to reassure people in the top two priority groups - care home residents and staff, those aged 80 and over, and frontline healthcare workers - that they are still being prioritised for vaccinations.

New vaccination sites now open

With a significant number of new vaccination sites opening in our local area, many more local residents will be contacted very soon to book their appointments.

As of 20 January, the sites are:

Primary Care Network	Vaccination location	Vaccinating patients registered
Hospital Hub	Addenbrooke's Hospital	
Hospital Hub	Peterborough City Hospital	
Ely South PCN	Staploe Medical Centre, Soham	Burwell Surgery, Haddenham Surgery, Stretham Surgery and Staploe Medical Centre
Ely North PCN	Cathedral Medical Centre. Ely	Cathedral Medical Centre, St Georges Medical Centre and St Marys Surgery
Wisbech PCN	North Brink Practice, Wisbech	Clarkson Surgery, North Brink Practice, Parsons Drive Surgery and Trinity Surgery
South Peterborough	Stanground Surgery, Peterborough	Oundle Medical Practice, New Queen Street & Stanground Surgeries, and Yaxley

St Neots PCN	Dumbelton Medical Practice, Eynesbury, St Neots	Cedar House Practice, Dumbelton Medical Practice, St Neots Health Centre, Monksfield Medical Practice (Cambourne) and Eaton Socon Health Centre
CANTAB PCN	Huntingdon Road Surgery	Bridge Street Medical Centre, Huntingdon Road Surgery, Girton Branch Surgery, Girton, and The Red House Surgery
Octagon North PCN	Jenner Practice, Whittlesey, and Thomas Walker Surgery, Peterborough	Bretton Medical Practice, Hodgson Medical Centre, Huntly Grove Practice, Jenner Practice, Minster Medical Practice, Nene Valley Medical Practice, Thomas Walker Surgery, Westgate Surgery, Park Medical Centre, Eye Medical Practice and Thorney Surgery
Central and Thistle Moor PCN	Thistle Moor Medical Centre, Peterborough	Central Medical Centre and Thistle Moor Medical Centre
Huntingdon PCN	Hicks Group Practice, Huntingdon	Acorn Surgery, Hicks Group Practice, Roman Gate Surgery Branch, Papworth Surgery and Priory Fields Surgery
St Ives PCN	Grove Medical Practice at the Old Exchange Surgery site, St Ives	Grove Medical Practice, Moat House Surgery, Riverport Medical Practice and The Spinney Partnership
BCM and Paston PCN	Werrington Surgery	Boroughbury Medical Centre, Werrington Surgery – Church Street, Paston Health Centre and Werrington Branch Surgery – Skaters Way
Granta PCN	Sawston Medical Centre	Granta Medical Practices: Shelford Medical Practice, Barley Surgery, Linton Health Centre, Market Hill Surgery and Sawston Medical Centre
Cambridge City 4 PCN	Cornford House Surgery	Cornford House Surgery, Queen Edith Medical Practice, Cherry Hinton Medical Practice, Mill Road Surgery, Petersfield Medical Practice and Woodlands Medical Practice

Peterborough Partnership PCN	The Fleet Community Centre	Botolph Bridge CHC, The Grange Medical Centre, Thorpe Road Surgery, The Willow Tree Surgery, Nightingale Medical Centre, Westwood Clinic, Ailsworth. Hampton Health
Fenland and Fenland South PCNs	Doddington Hospital (from w/c 18 Jan)	George Clare Surgery, Priors Field Surgery, Fenland Group Practice, Cornerstone Practice, Ramsey Health Centre, Mercheford House Practice and Riverside Practice
Hospital Hub	Royal Papworth Hospital	
Hospital Hub	Hinchingbrooke Hospital	
CAM Medical PCN	Clay Farm Centre	Lensfield Road, Newnham Walk, Trumpington Street
Meridian PCN	Royston Health Centre	Bourn, Comberton, Harston, Orchard Surgery, Melbourn, Roysia Surgery, Royston and Royston Health Centre
Cambs North Villages PCN	Over Community Centre Milton Community Centre	Cottenham, Firs House, Histon, Maple Surgery, Bar Hill Health Centre, Milton, Over, Swavesey, Waterbeach and Willingham
Cambs City PCN	East Barnwell	Arbury Road, Cambridge, Bottisham Cambridge Access Surgery, East Barnwell, Cambridge, Nuffield Road, Cambridge York St
A1 PCN	Alconbury Surgery Little Paxton	Alconbury and Brampton, Almond Road, St Neots Buckden and Little Paxton practices, Kimbolton and Wellside Surgery,

A new vaccination Centre has now opened at the Grafton Centre in Cambridge. Further locations will go live over the coming days and weeks. Some local residents may also receive invitations to book appointments at national vaccination centers, such as Stevenage, but this is just another option. If they can't travel or they would rather wait for an appointment closer to home, they can choose to do that, and their local GP-led service will be in touch soon to offer an alternative. The national ambition, if supplies allow, is to have offered vaccines to the most vulnerable 13 million people by the middle of February, and are on target to offer vaccinations to our local residents who fall into these groups. The NHS locally has the capacity and trained staff to deliver vaccines as soon as they have been manufactured and have undergone the relevant safety checks.

Covid-19 Hubs and Libraries helping distribute emergency hygiene packs

Residents struggling whether to afford either food or toiletries are able to contact their local hub to access emergency hygiene packs. Helped by sixteen libraries across Cambridgeshire, the Hubs have distributed over 250 toiletry packs to those needing emergency supplies. The pack includes soap, toothpaste, laundry and cleaning products and sanitary supplies. The County Hub noticed early in December 2020 that quite a lot of

requests were coming in to support with hygiene supplies. Families who were low on money were having to choose between food or toiletries. They worked with the library services in each district and provided them with a supply and when they get a request through to the Hub for support, they will direct them to their nearest library to pick up a pack.

Families and individuals experiencing immediate financial hardship with access to food or essential supplies can contact the Hub by calling 0345 045 5219 or completing the support form on the [Cambridgeshire](#) County Council website.

Rapid testing for Key Workers

A Rapid Testing for key workers and all those who cannot work from home pilot is set to launch across Cambridgeshire to help track cases of Coronavirus and drive down transmission rates. A number of sites are being set up across the county offering rapid tests to people aged 18 and over who have no symptoms of Coronavirus. Cambridgeshire County Council has 100,000 tests kits to be used in the next six weeks, with the potential for the pilot to be extended.

Around one in three people who are infected with Covid-19 have no symptoms and could be spreading the disease without knowing it. Broadening testing to identify key workers showing no symptoms will mean finding positive cases more quickly, which helps break chains of transmission. Initially there will be six sites across the county, with the potential to set up pop-up sites in areas of high need if required. Tests will be offered at no cost to the public. By testing these people on a regular basis - twice a week for at least six weeks - can reduce the number of cases of Covid-19 across Cambridgeshire, limit the number of people who might die or become very ill as a result of the virus. Lateral flow tests are a new kind of technology that can be used to test a higher proportion of asymptomatic people and do not require a laboratory to process the test.

Tests will be available in the following locations:

- The Hub, High Street, Cambourne, South Cambridgeshire, CB23 6GW – launches Wednesday 3 February.
- Queen Mary Centre, Queen's Road, Wisbech, Fenland, PE13 2PE – launches Thursday 4 February
- Soham Town Rangers Football Club, Julius Martin Lane, Soham, Ely, East Cambridgeshire, CB7 5EQ – launches Friday 5 February.
- Huntingdon, The Coneygear Centre, Butts Grove Way, Huntingdon, PE29 1PE – launches Thursday 11 February.
- Cambridge, The Meadows Community Centre, 1 St Catherine's Rd, Arbury, Cambridge, CB4 3XJ – launches Friday 12 February.

Each site will be open 8am to 8pm, Monday to Saturday. To book a test, people need to visit www.cambridgeshire.gov.uk/rapidtesting

Winter grants scheme helps over 32,000 children and young people

Households and individuals across Cambridgeshire and Peterborough facing challenges because of the pandemic have received help from their local authority. More than 32,000 children and young people received support either individually or through their families as part of Cambridgeshire County Council's winter grants scheme. The winter grants scheme supports families and individuals experiencing immediate financial hardship with access to food and essential supplies over the Christmas period and beyond.

This support is being offered in two ways – as a direct food voucher scheme or as extra support for vulnerable families and individuals.

- 306 households have been supported with emergency food
- 578 emergency fuel vouchers have been issued
- 133 families have been able to go to their local library to collect personal hygiene products
- 9 replacement household appliances have been provided for emergency situations or medical reasons

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This is in addition to nearly 65,000 supermarket vouchers handed out to eligible families and children struggling in the run-up to Christmas, and the same families will automatically receive further vouchers in the February half term. Also, resolving requests for other help and support from around 2,500 households (including help with household heating and water bills, food and other essential supplies).

Peter Hudson
County Councillor
Longstanton, Northstowe, Oakington, Westwick, and Over