

Health Champion

Helping to spread the facts

Spring booster

People aged 75 years and over and those aged 12 years and over with a weakened immune system are being offered the spring booster.

The NHS is contacting those who are eligible, six months after their last dose - and people should wait until they are invited. Priority will be given to people with the greatest clinical need, starting with those who have had the longest gap since their last dose, and then inviting others who have waited less time. Everyone who is eligible will be offered a top up vaccine over the spring and early summer.

Vaccination to be offered to 5-11 year olds

From Saturday 2 April, all children aged 5-11 years old with no underlying health conditions will be eligible to receive their first vaccination. Parents and guardians can book a vaccination appointment for their child using the [National Booking System](#) or from Monday 4 April, selected walk-in clinics will also be offering appointments.

Previously, covid vaccination for 5-11 year olds had been limited to children who are clinically extremely vulnerable or immunosuppressed. However, it is now recommended that the vaccination is offered to boost immunity for young children to increase their protection against any future waves of covid.

Read the full story [online](#) or [access advice and guidance](#) for parents and guardians thinking about vaccination for their 5-11 year old on GOV.UK.

End of free testing

Universal free testing for COVID-19 ended on 31 March 2022 and free testing services have closed at:

- Pharmacies
- Community collection points such as libraries
- Test sites
- Schools, nurseries and universities

From 1 April, you can only order tests online if you are eligible.

In England, you can order tests if:

- you have a health condition which means you're eligible for COVID-19 treatments
- your doctor or healthcare professional has told you to get a test because you're being admitted to hospital
- you've spoken to your GP or healthcare professional recently and they asked you to get a test

You can also order tests if:

- you work for the NHS in a patient-facing role, and you're taking part in the NHS staff testing programme
- you work for an NHS-commissioned independent healthcare provider in a patient-facing role looking after NHS patients
- you work for the NHS and you have one of the 3 main COVID-19 symptoms or you have recently tested positive and need to take a test to return to work

- you work in the adult social care sector as a personal assistant, a Shared Lives carer, a Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspector or a social worker

You can find out more about [getting tested for coronavirus and ordering tests on the NHS website](#).

Vaccination clinics

The vaccine remains to be the most effective way to protect yourself and others against coronavirus. It's not too late to have any of the vaccines – dose 1, dose 2, dose 3 or booster. You are able to do so at many vaccination clinics across the county.

For the full latest clinic information and opening times please visit <https://www.leicestercityccg.nhs.uk/my-health/coronavirus-advice/coronavirus-vaccine/>

Kind regards,

Covid Health Champions – Leicestershire County Council
