

Dear Communities of Interest network,

This week has been very busy with lots of information coming through, the latest information in this email is from the last few days and felt appropriate to share now rather than wait.

Routes to Support For the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable

The Government has advised that those who are clinically extremely vulnerable (CEV) should continue to shield until **31st March 2021**.

Based on updated evidence from the government there are a further 11,040 people aged under 70 in Leeds who will be added to the shielding list based on their estimated risk. New additions to the group are largely made up of people whose combination of factors give them an equivalent risk to those already identified as clinically extremely vulnerable.

CEV update can be found [here](#)

Advanced notice if Local Enhanced Testing

Next week there will be some **additional testing taking place in some parts of Leeds**, with a national announcement due to be made today. This additional surveillance testing for people without Covid symptoms will help us and the Government understand the level of new variants in the city, so we are better informed and can plan for this in our response.

The additional testing will be available for those living or working in parts of LS8, including parts of Harehills and the area just north of Easterly Road (and some small areas outside of LS8).

There will be intensive community engagement activity taking place to advise people living and working in the target area how they can get tested, either through home testing or at the Infinity Centre, Conway Road (near the Bilal Mosque site). It is important to note that levels of infection have been falling in these areas of Leeds over recent weeks, in line with improving infection rates right across the city, and there are no additional risks for anyone living or working in the area.

The best advice still remains to keep safe by thinking hands, face and space and staying at home when you can. The testing will start on 22 February and the information will be placed on the [NHS Leeds website](#) later this week. Please get in touch if you are working in the LS8 area and would like to support this through messaging or helping identify volunteers.

Update on Covid-19 Vaccination Programme in Leeds

As the Covid-19 vaccine programme rollout continues in Leeds, those who fall into priority **Groups 5 and 6**, as defined by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), will now be invited to receive their first Covid-19 vaccination.

Information on priority groups which include Family / unpaid Carers, people with Severe Mental Illness, People with a Learning Difficulty and what you should do can be found [here](#)

Exciting Third Sector Representation Opportunities

We have a very exciting opportunity to be a Forum Central Representative at the weekly Multi Agency 'Bronze' meeting addressing Mental Health and Shielding. This meeting feeds into the city's command and control structures for dealing with the pandemic.

This role may appeal to someone with experience of delivering frontline services. This is an opportunity to influence the development of work around supporting people in Leeds who are clinically extremely vulnerable. It is a great opportunity to generate progressive and meaningful change from within and to amplify the voices of the people and communities of Leeds.

For more information please see [here](#). or contact gabby.voinea@forumcentral.org.uk

COVID-19 vaccine and fertility

The Royal College of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists and the Royal College of Midwives issued a [press notice on 19 January](#), responding to misinformation around COVID-19 vaccine and how there's no evidence to suggest that COVID-19 vaccines will affect fertility.

[Fertility information sheet: medical experts and scientists agree that it is not possible for the vaccine to affect fertility](#)

Want To Know More About (WTKMA) sessions

Leeds Public Health Training 'Want to know more about ...' awareness and information training sessions, are hugely popular and provide an excellent opportunity for you to build your confidence in identifying and tackling issues pertaining to a particular public health topic, as well as learning more about local services and ways to help others.

COVID-19 vaccine

Wednesday 31 March 2021, 12:30pm to 2pm

This session will provide information about how professionals working in Leeds can support community engagement with the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

This webinar will cover:

- COVID-19 and its impact
- vaccine - the facts
- vaccination programme roll-out
- inequalities and vulnerable groups
- barriers to access/ concerns
- how you can support the vaccination programme
- further support and resources

The sessions are free of charge and are presented in an engaging manner by friendly and knowledgeable facilitators. If you would like further information or to see other topics then please click [here](#)

Many thanks

Forum Central Team