

Diptford Parish Council Meeting, 14th September 2021 App. 2 DCC County Report, September 2021

Covid-19

The 'Bad' News – an Enhanced Response Area (ERA).

On August 27th, DCC received the news that Devon (along with Plymouth, Torbay, Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly) was now designated an ERA due to high cases. This means that the government has prioritised the 'far' South West for additional support to reduce case rates. 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.

The advice from County Hall is 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

The good news:

- Uptake of the vaccine among 16/17-year-olds has been high
- A study led by the University of Oxford has found the risk of a blood clot or stroke is much higher with a covid infection than following vaccination.
- 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.

Vaccination data for Devon

- 926,555 people in Devon received a first vaccine dose between 8 December and 5 September, vaccination [data published](#) by NHS England and NHS Improvement shows, broken down as follows:

Age group	Number of 1st doses given	Number of 2nd doses given	Approx % of age group received at least one dose*	Approx % of age group received both doses
80+	76,529	74,979	95% or above for people aged 50 and over	90% or above for people aged 50 and over
75-79	58,420	57,946		
70-74	77,479	76,747		
65-69	72,120	71,185		
60-64	79,155	76,587		
55-59	85,685	83,484		
50-54	80,904	78,729		
45-49	66,530	63,641	89.7%	85.8%
40-44	59,469	55,882	96.3%	90.5%
35-39	59,930	53,785	91.4%	82.0%
30-34	59,412	50,332	90.1%	76.3%
25-29	54,303	41,597	78.4%	60.0%
18-24	79,490	55,743	79.2%	55.5%
All under 18	17,129	3,293	7.6%	1.5%
Total	926,555	843,930	92.7%	84.5%

Connecting Devon and Somerset

This scheme, to improve mobile phone coverage in rural parts of Devon and Somerset, is being expanded. Connecting Devon and Somerset (CDS) has announced that its Mobile Boost Programme, which aims to upgrade indoor 4G coverage in “not-spot” areas, now includes a greater choice of equipment. It’s targeting small businesses and households in rural communities who currently have inadequate coverage or have access to only one provider and are currently struggling with connectivity. Businesses and households can apply for a voucher of up to £1,200 towards the cost of a mobile signal booster from a registered supplier. For a list of registered suppliers and an application form, visit www.connectingdevonandsomerset.co.uk/the-cds-mobile-booster-voucher-scheme-guide/

Dartmoor National Park Authority

A consultation is about to begin on updating the Park’s byelaws. Headlines include a restriction on the number of dogs a person may walk, camping policy, drones and use of fires/bbqs.