

Buckinghamshire Council <mailer@news.buckinghamshire.gov.uk>

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## Call for communities to keep COVID-19 job appointments as more than 5,250 slots missed in one week

To magazine@hughendenresidents.org



### News from the Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)

**31 December 2021**

#### **Call for communities to keep COVID-19 job appointments as more than 5,250 slots missed in one week**

People in Buckinghamshire are urged to keep their COVID-19 job appointment wherever possible after figures revealed a total of 5,251 appointments booked via the National Booking Service (NBS) were missed across the area in the last seven days – more than 750 a day.

However, the real figure is likely to be far higher as this does not include missed COVID-19 appointment slots at GP practices across Bucks, which record the data individually.

The ask is for people who cannot make their appointment or need to change it for any reason, do so via the NBS. This allows others to book their slot and helps clinics plan vaccine sessions more efficiently.

It comes as dedicated health and care teams continue to do all they can to help ensure every eligible person across the county is offered a booster jab by the New Year. This includes delivering jabs via GP practices and outreach clinics, hospital hubs, pharmacies and mass vaccination centres.

**Raj Bajwa, local GP and Chair of Buckinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group, said:** “We have had an incredible response from the public to get their vaccinations ever since we first opened the mass vaccination centres across Buckinghamshire in December 2020.

“However, more than 5,250 appointments booked via the National Booking Service at our centres were missed in the last week. These unwanted slots could have been offered to other eligible people if they had been cancelled. Please help others by cancelling your COVID-19 vaccination appointment if you do not plan to attend or if you have had an earlier appointment elsewhere.”

Anyone eligible who has not yet taken up the offer of a first, second or booster dose is strongly encouraged to do so as soon as possible to ensure they are as protected as possible from the virus.

The offer of a COVID-19 jab is not time-limited so anyone invited can have the vaccine – even if they have previously declined and changed their mind.

The Omicron COVID-19 variant remains highly transmissible. Existing public health measures remain in place including:

- staying at home if you feel unwell
- get a test if you experience any COVID-19 symptoms
- wear a face covering in crowded, enclosed spaces
- work from home if possible
- maintain social distancing and regular hand washing
- take up the offer of the free COVID-19 vaccine

**To cancel or move a COVID-19 vaccine appointment booked through National Booking Service, [please visit the website](#) or call 119 (open between 7am and 11pm daily).**

**If you need to cancel or move an appointment booked via a pharmacy or your GP practice, please contact them directly.**

## ENDS

### Notes to Editor

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More than 1,075,000 jabs have been delivered across Buckinghamshire since the launch of the biggest vaccination programme in NHS history a year ago.

Eligible people can access their COVID-19 vaccination in the following ways:

- **Via a local GP service:** GP practices are working together across the county to vaccinate as many people as possible. Residents may be contacted by a different surgery to the one they usually go to. These sites are delivering booster doses and third doses for people who are immunosuppressed.
- **At a local vaccination centres:** Eligible people should receive a letter advising them of this route to book an appointment. Some sites are offering appointments for booster doses and vaccinations for children aged 12 – 17. Many sites are also offering walk-in options as well.
- **Local pharmacies:** NHS England and Improvement has arranged for some pharmacies in Buckinghamshire to provide the booster vaccination. People can book an appointment at a pharmacy via the National Booking System online or by calling 119.

#### Vaccination sites

Please click [here](#) for full details of local sites offering appointments and walk-in clinics being held across Buckinghamshire in the coming days. People are advised to check regularly as more appointments slots and walk-ins are regularly added.

Contact us at [communications@buckinghamshire.gov.uk](mailto:communications@buckinghamshire.gov.uk) (monitored during office hours). For urgent Out Of Hours enquiries call 07825 430 978

More information about the [Integrated Care Partnership \(ICP\)](#)

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