

### Health on the Move Van

The NHS van was due to visit a number of sites in West Berkshire this week offering Covid vaccinations for local people. However, this weekend's announcement around booster jabs has led to a sudden and extremely high level of demand in the area and clinicians based on the van have now been put on standby to ensure sufficient staffing levels at other vaccination sites in the area.

This means the van's visits to the following places have been cancelled: Kintbury Coronation Hall (14 and 15 December), Thatcham Catholic Hall (16 December), Riverside Community Centre, (17 December), and Woolhampton Village Hall (18 December). These sites were not designed to deal with high levels of demand and have not been risk assessed to ensure high numbers of people could be kept safe in the event of a sudden surge of demand as has been seen on other sites.

Local people can still access Covid vaccinations by booking on the National Booking System where they will be offered a range of vaccination sites. Alternatively, they can wait to be contacted by their GP Practice to arrange an appointment.

A spokesperson for Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group, said: "We would like to apologise for the inconvenience to people who had planned to visit the Van and appreciate people's patience in this. By standing down the van this week we can support our other vaccination sites to run more efficiently and help staff and volunteers concentrate on getting people through the process more quickly.

"People can use the [National Booking Service](#) or, if they can't get online, they can call 119 to pre-book a booster dose of the vaccine if it's been 2 months (61 days) since their 2nd dose and they're in one of these groups:

- aged 30 years old and over
- aged 16 years old and over with a health condition that puts you at high risk from COVID-19
- frontline health and social care workers
- From Wednesday 15 December 18 year olds and above will be able to book via the National Booking System

"Please note the NHS booking service is facing extremely high demand at the moment. If you can't book straight away, please try later or the following day. More appointment slots are being made available every day, so please don't worry – you will be able to arrange your jab," the spokesperson added.