

## **Mayoral Vaccination Event for Faith Leaders and Community Groups Roundtable**

**1<sup>st</sup> July 2021 at 5pm**

This webinar took place under Chatham House rules and therefore there is no recording. We've included some details, from the panel of experts (NHS, PHE and a faith leader) on the webinar, which still fall under Chatham House rules.

We've included some useful links in the text below which we'd be grateful if you would share with your communities/friends/family.

Should you still have any questions/observations/suggestions please send them to us at [questions@wmca.org.uk](mailto:questions@wmca.org.uk)

### **Detail**

Case rates with the delta variant are still rising. It is both more infectious and sadly more dangerous.

Consistent evidence shows that a larger proportion of people who haven't been vaccinated and catch the delta variant are becoming unwell and ending up in hospital/intensive care and it's still a bit early to say whether they will then go on to die. But, if it follows the passing the previous variance, it is expected that will happen.

There is extreme confidence in both vaccines giving good protection against hospitalisation, death and be seriously unwell which is why it is important to get vaccinated.

We still have 59,000 over-50s in Birmingham who have not had their first jab. And in other parts of the West Midlands, there are similarly large proportions of people over 50. They are the group that absolutely at the highest risk of ending up in hospital, and potentially dying if they catch this Delta variant. This age group getting vaccinated is the priority due to this risk.

If only 10% of them, get seriously ill, that is enough to block up our hospitals and our health system. And that's the important bit, is, there are two sides about why this is really important.

The first is, we don't want you catching covid in any way because, it's not a nice condition, and we know more and more about long covid. It's not just about getting sick now, it can make you sick for months, and months, and months. It is a very nasty disease.

The second, if the hospitals get swamped with covid, it, all the people that need hip replacements, cancer treatment, all of those gets pushed to one side again, because we have to deal with the people that are emergency illness. And that's the things we experienced over the last year.

So, understanding, from the data that we have, the heat maps, where are, we can see the areas where we need to focus.

But please, don't let the side effects and what you hear stop you, from protecting yourself and your family, because trust me, if you have covid, your chances of having a blood clot are about 20% higher than if you had the vaccine. You are at more risk of getting covid than you are getting a blood clot due to the vaccine.

There's nothing in there for the government to use to track you.

## GP appointments

The reality is, if we compare the number of appointments that were given in the first quarter of 2019 to 2020 and then the same during the pandemic 2021, actually, the numbers are the same.

If you can't travel for health reasons, that's where talking to your GP is really important.

GPs have done a great job. They had a list of patients that would normally have a home visit because of mobility impairment. There was a housebound service that went to them. Now, what we're seeing is that the patients that wouldn't be on that list normally because their limitation is social anxiety or phobia or mental health conditions, which they would normally be able to get to their GP practice but would find it hard to go somewhere strange and different, talking to the GP practice about what the solutions are.

There is still a housebound service for those that are physically unable.

We are actually offering different styles of appointments with GPs as well as other health professionals depending on the needs of the patient. We also have various methods of contacting GPs including online triage. We might never return to business as usual as we know it where everything is face to face but we are getting patients seen however we can. There is also the backlog from last year during the pandemic which we are working hard to clear and provide the vaccination programme so we ask everyone to be patient with their GP and health staff.

## Progress so far

We've worked on getting access and information improved with the help of the faith community. This has included

- new community pharmacies in West Birmingham
- Pop-ups
- Niche Cam centre in terms of having co-location with temples, mosques, Gujarati with longer times during Ramadan
- Working with the Chinese community centre where they bought translators to help increase uptake as well.
- Project with a community group called Beat Freaks. Kids in their teens and early twenties have been going on Instagram and creating their own content.
- Vaccination buses – making sure that they are in the right areas
- A video has been produced by Chief Midwifery Officer, Jacqueline Dunkley-Bent to address worries regarding pregnancy and fertility concerns amongst women especially from the ethnic minorities [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAmpTjI\\_gjU](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAmpTjI_gjU)
- More centres opening up
- Variety of opening times
- Working with large businesses (20+) on staff vaccinations through the employer and this can be through identifying nearest pharmacy or taking the vaccination bus
- Walk ins
- Places of worship hosting roundtables with a wide range of communities
- Contacting under-30s by text
- Phoning patients about the vaccine including answering any questions/concerns

- Reviewing what works for method and message - the messaging around protection and protecting loved one's, you know, your own health and others around you, wasn't as effective as convenience. We also worked with our Central and Eastern European community to review and improve the way we were putting out information
- Community Champions
- Commission partners, for example, working with communities like Somali community, and our French speaking Africa and community to get messages out in languages and in ways which are culturally appropriate
- Over 250 places of worship have expressed an interest in becoming vaccine centres with more than 50 of these on vaccine sites and many more are working in partnerships with local pharmacies to provide popup services safely
- Working with communities

## **More Information**

### **Websites**

<https://www.blackcountrywestbirminghamcovidvaccine.co.uk/>

<https://www.birminghamandsolihullcovidvaccine.nhs.uk>

The above websites will give you all the information you need - where can you get the vaccine? How can you book in where the vaccination buses are going to pop up? What the side effects that people have reported? What you need to be worried about, what you don't need to be worried about, where you get information about bits, and how to answer them.

### **Vaccination letters/text**

Not everyone will have had an individualised letter or an individualized text message because that was done with the over-50s. We've moved down through the younger age groups. It's been on national advertising on radio, TV, social media. So don't wait for a letter or an e-mail or text message.

If you're under 50 go along anyway, you are now eligible.

## **19 July 2021**

This is not over yet. And that particularly is the message around schools, we will hopefully have a very different education approach in September. But for the next couple of weeks, just to the end of time, we've got to stick with the restrictions that we have. And that's because we're all seeing high case rates in children. Although it's unusual for children to get sick.

So, I think, it is a difficult balancing message, I think, particularly as we go into the final and semi-finals of the football, hopefully to the finals you know, that that is going to be really hard to manage.

### **Testing**

It's not just about vaccination. It's all about testing as well, and if we can get people to do a lateral flow tests before they go to the pub, before they go to Temple before they go for dinner with their mates, that at least is a chance of trying to keep it under control over the next couple of weeks.

