Charnwood Borough & County Councillor update January 2022

Omicron impact – Residents asked to check website for latest information

People are being urged to check online for the latest updates on Leicestershire County Council’s services as the omicron surge continues.

Currently most services are running as normal, including those that support vulnerable people, though staff shortages are inevitably starting to have impact on some operations.

Residents can find the latest updates at: <https://www.leicestershire.gov.uk/popular-now/council-service-updates>.

Services affected by staff absence and isolation include:

* **Waste and recycling sites** - where a significant number of front-line workers are off and temporary closures or reduced opening hours may be required
* **Some home to school and special educational needs transport services** – parents will be contacted if their transport is not available
* **A reduced supply of lateral flow tests** **from the Government** – this means they are not currently being distributed by the council’s mobile van testing service.

People urged to get covid vaccine urgently as hospital admissions soar

Richard Mitchell, Chief Executive of University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust, said: “Every known medical condition is made worse by Covid, yet we still have unvaccinated people in our communities.

"The majority of our hospital intensive care beds are taken by Covid patients. Over 75% are unvaccinated, some will not make it home. This is having a big impact on our colleagues and on patients waiting for cancer and cardiac surgery who require an intensive care bed to have their operation.

“Covid vaccination protects against severe illness, it is safe, it is effective. Getting your jab is the single most important thing you can do to protect yourself and others.”

Andy Williams, Chief Executive of the Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland (LLR) Clinical Commissioning Groups, said: “I commend our frontline health and care staff for all they are doing to continue the fight against COVID, which has simply not gone away. If you are not vaccinated, COVID could cost your life, it could cause unbearable pain for your family, and your time in intensive care denies someone else the vital care they might need.”

There was a surge in vaccine uptake over Christmas week, which saw more than 60,000 people vaccinated in Leicester, Leicestershire and Rutland between 20 and 26 December. On Christmas Day and Boxing Day more people had the vaccine in our area than anywhere else in the Midlands.

Despite this, there are still many people locally who are overdue for a vaccine dose. As of 29 December, almost 190,000 people were due to have their booster, which is essential for maximum protection against Omicron, which is now the dominant variant.

Andy Williams added: “I urge everyone to just get their vaccine – it’s not too late for even a first dose. It’s the best New Year’s resolution you could make, so if you’ve been putting it off for any reason, please get the vaccine now.”