

Adults and Health

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Dear all

### Community Concerns re Second Vaccination

I am aware there have been some concerns in the community about having the second vaccination.

I want to reassure you that health professionals both locally and nationally remain confident in the safety of the vaccines and I would urge everyone to get their second vaccination as soon as they are invited. I am very concerned that if people do not get two doses of the vaccine, we will see more hospitalisations and possibly deaths in the district over the next year.

All vaccines approved for use in the UK meet strict standards of safety, quality and effectiveness set out by the independent Medicine and Healthcare products Regulatory Authority (MHRA). The COVID-19 vaccines have undergone the rigorous clinical trials and safety checks that all other licensed medicines must go through.

To date, millions of people have been given a COVID-19 vaccine, and reports of serious side effects have been very rare, whilst the benefits of the vaccine far outweigh any risks. New research from Public Health England has shown that the vaccination programme prevented 11,700 deaths and 33,000 hospitalisations in those aged 60 and over up to the end of April 2021.

Evidence from clinical trials shows that people build up better protection against COVID-19 symptoms when the vaccine is given in two, smaller doses, with an interval between them. If you do not have your second dose you will not be as well protected as you could be. Evidence is also showing that the second dose is particularly important for protecting people against the new variant (which originated in India) that is now circulating in Wakefield District. The second dose is identical to the first, and so your vaccination experience will be the same.

My colleagues and I are committed to working closely with you and your communities to reassure you and answer any concerns you may have. Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any further assistance or you would like any more information on the vaccination programme.

Yours faithfully



Anna Hartley  
Director of Public Health  
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