**Message to our patients – update on the COVID-19 booster programme**

The NHS and its partners are working extremely hard to roll out the COVID-19 booster vaccination programme to our communities.

**About vaccination appointments**

* Thank you for your interest in the vaccination
* Vaccination services are working extremely hard to roll out the booster programme and to make as many appointments available as possible.

After last night's announcement the website is very busy but keep checking; **more appointments will be added from Wednesday 15 December.** You may also be contacted by your local service provider over the next few days.

* You must be 2 months from the date of your second vaccination to arrange your booster - and you will be able to have it when you are 3 months from your second vaccination.
* The best step is if you are at 2 months from your second vaccination is to go onto the National Booking System website - or call 119 - and there you will be able to see all the available appointments. More and more are added every day so if you can't see a local service, try later in the day or the next day.
* All of the vaccination services are working at pace to increase the number of appointments they can offer.

**About GP appointments**

* Unless you hear from us, your appointment will continue as planned.
* If we need to change anything, we will make direct contact with you.

We understand that NHS England will be issuing further guidance shortly and we will be having further discussions about what may need to happen to support the vaccination programme but at this current time there is no change to your planned

***See more about the vaccination programme in Newcastle upon Tyne, including the vaccination services:***

[***https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/vaccinations/national-booking-service***](https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/vaccinations/national-booking-service)