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### HEALTH PROTECTION SERVICES: ASYMPTOMATIC TESTING

19. To reduce the risk of transmission in the workplaces, employers are encouraged to get involved in workplace testing through NI SMART: Asymptomatic Testing Programme. Two different schemes are available: a collect system where test packs are provided to employees for self-testing; and assisted testing where the process is undertaken for them.

20. Members of the public can receive free rapid COVID-19 tests through a range of Community Collect sites across Northern Ireland, or by having tests delivered to their home. This will enable compliance with guidance on testing in advance of large events, and attendance at hospitality, when the person is not vaccinated.

### HEALTH PROTECTION SERVICES: COVID-19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME

21. The latest vaccination uptake information is now available at <https://covid-19.hscni.net/ni-covid-19-vaccinations-dashboard>. As of 22 October 2,606,061 doses have been administered in Northern Ireland. This includes 1,319,509 first doses and 1,237,115 second doses, which represents an adult population coverage of 89.15% and 85.06% respectively.

Table: Vaccination by dosage data as of 22 October 2021

Source: DoH COVID-19 Daily Dashboard\* Mid-year population estimates were changed from 2019 to 2020 from the 1 August – this meant that some of the denominator figures went up or down.

Age	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	% of Cohort	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	% of Cohort
18-29	207,366	75.26%	182,141	66.10%
30-39	200,029	79.71%	185,104	73.76%
40-49	213,155	88.49%	204,669	84.96%
50-59	241,370	93.52%	236,359	91.58%
60-69	199,932	100%	197,590	98.93%
70-79	147,602	100%	145,061	98.95%

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80+	87,078	100%	82,965	100%
Total	1,296,532	88.15%	1,237,115	85.06%

Age	1 <sup>st</sup> Dose	% of Cohort	2 <sup>nd</sup> Dose	% of Cohort
16&17	22,977	50.73%	n/a yet	

22. JCVI are reviewing the evidence and decide if/when healthy 16 and 17 year olds should be offered a second dose.

23. The 4 UK CMOs recommended on public health grounds that Ministers extend the offer of universal vaccination with a first dose of Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine to all children and young people aged 12-15 not already covered by existing JCVI advice. They took into account the additional likely benefits of reducing educational disruption, and the consequent reduction in public health harm from educational disruption when reaching this decision. The CMO's considerations have been informed by the independent expertise of leaders of clinical and public health professionals from across the UK.

24. Therefore the COVID-19 vaccine is being offered to all children aged 12-15 years of age as part of a school based programme, and parents will be asked to provide their consent to allow their child to be vaccinated. In addition special vaccination clinics will be held over the half term break to allow parents to bring their children forward for vaccination if they do not want to wait for the school based programme.

25. JCVI set out who should be offered a booster dose at 6 months after they received their second dose of a COVID-19 vaccine. Those now being invited for vaccination include:

- Those living in residential care homes for older adults;
- All adults aged 50 years or over;
- Frontline health and social care workers;
- All those aged 16 to 49 years with underlying health conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19, and adult carers; and

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