

## Media Release

**Date:** 14 December 2021

### Vaccine booster programme to be accelerated

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Work has been taking place in recent days to examine ways to accelerate the delivery of the booster programme, with a decision taken to focus on 'walk-in' clinics going forward.

An acceleration of the vaccine booster programme will offer the best chance of protecting the island from the impact of the Omicron variant.

It is hoped that much of the island's over-18 population will have had the opportunity to be fully vaccinated and boosted by the end of the year, and that the majority will be done by mid-January.

We are maximising the resources available to the programme and the Community Vaccination Centre will now be open every day, with the exception of Christmas day and a half day on both Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve.

The vaccine booster programme will now be rolled out as follows:

- Anyone who has received an appointment letter already, please attend at that time (currently all over 35-year-olds with appointments scheduled up to 22<sup>nd</sup> December)
- From tomorrow (Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> December 2021), no further appointments will be proactively provided – no more letters sent
- Focus going forward will be on maximising use of walk-in clinics, which have been well-attended whenever held on ad-hoc basis
- Each walk-in clinic will be promoted for specific age groups, moving down through the age stratification to offer all over 18-year-olds the chance to be boosted
- Anyone who believes they are in a vulnerable category, but who has not received a letter, can attend a walk-in clinic

Please note that if you have recently had Covid-19, you cannot have your booster until 28 days have passed since the day of your swab.