



BEDFORD BOROUGH COUNCIL

Borough Charter granted in 1166



Mayor: Dave Hodgson

Professor Wei Shen Lim
Chair of Covid 19 immunisation
Joint Committee on Vaccination and
Immunisation (JCVI)

Direct line: 01234 718620
Email: Dave.hodgson@bedford.gov.uk
Your Ref:
Our Ref:
Date: 13 May 2021

Dear Professor Wei Shen Lim,

We are writing to request an urgent programme of COVID 19 vaccinations in Bedford Borough for all residents aged between 16 and 40 years old.

We are very concerned about the rapid increase in COVID 19 cases of the Indian B.1.617.2 variant in Bedford Borough. Whole genome sequencing and SGTF data suggests B.1.617.2 may now be the dominant variant here with 72.7% of sequenced tests being this variant.

- Testing in schools throughout the Borough has revealed 23 confirmed VOC in Bedford since 10/4/21 and 12+ unsequenced linked cases.
- 11 VOC linked to Kimberley College and Sharnbrook Academy since 22/4 are all part of national cluster C2, with links to University of Buckinghamshire Medical School and Stevenage Fire Station.
- High attack rate observed, with entire households infected.
- Targeted testing is being undertaken for ~300 close contacts
- There has been a sharp increase in cases in young people aged between 11 and 22.

We think it is imperative to immediately implement a vaccination programme for all residents aged 16 - 40 years old in the Borough, many of whom live in multi-generational households. We also consider it vital that a vaccine for children under 16 should be developed and licenced as soon as possible.

We therefore request that Bedford Borough is prioritised for the roll out of further Pfizer and Moderna vaccinations to protect our residents, especially in light of some lockdown restrictions being lifted from Monday 17th May.

We keenly await your prompt response to this matter.

Yours sincerely

Dave Hodgson
Elected Mayor
Bedford Borough Council

Louise Jackson
Portfolio Holder for Health and Public Health
Bedford Borough Council