



Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

**Kemi Badenoch MP**

*Minister of State for Equalities and Levelling  
Up Communities*

***Department for Levelling up, Housing and  
Communities***

Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Email: [kemi.badenoch@communities.gov.uk](mailto:kemi.badenoch@communities.gov.uk)

[www.gov.uk/dluhc](http://www.gov.uk/dluhc)

17 December 2021

## **Urgent Appeal: Get your COVID-19 booster to protect yourself this winter**

Vaccines have saved countless lives and continue to be our best way to protect ourselves and our loved ones against COVID-19 – and have helped over the last few months to bring communities back together. Thanks to this modern science, we have also been able to come together in places of worship, to practice our faith safely.

There is now a new threat to our safety – the Omicron variant. This variant is spreading fast, and the government has said we can expect a tidal wave of infections. Earlier this week the UK's four Chief Medical Officers raised the COVID-19 Alert level to 4, its second highest level, because of the evidence that Omicron is doubling here every two to three days. We cannot make the mistake of thinking Omicron cannot harm us – there are patients with Omicron in hospital right now.

The good news is scientists have said that the booster jab is the best way to tackle this threat – the latest data shows that a third dose - a booster - is at least 70 percent effective at preventing symptomatic COVID-19. It is vital that we all come together, once again and get our booster jab to play our part in this national mission. More than 25 million people have already received their booster jab, helping to keep themselves, their friends and family safe this winter but we need everyone to come forward to get ahead of this virus. The government has accelerated the booster rollout so that all adults, anyone over the age of 18, can get their booster jab by the end of the year.

If you have yet to get your first or second dose, it's never too late – vaccines reduce hospitalisations and deaths. Please come forward and get the vital protection you need. You will be warmly welcomed.

We urge everyone, not only to come forward yourself, but to encourage your friends and family to book their jabs, on the NHS website or by calling 119 as soon as possible and get this vital protection.

**KEMI BADENOCH MP MINISTER FOR EQUALITIES AND LEVELLING UP**

**THE MOST REVD AND RT HON JUSTIN WELBY, ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY**

**CARDINAL VINCENT NICHOLS, ARCHBISHOP OF WESTMINSTER, AND PRESIDENT OF THE CATHOLIC BISHOPS' CONFERENCE OF ENGLAND AND WALES**

**EPHRAIM MIRVIS, CHIEF RABBI OF THE UNITED HEBREW CONGREGATIONS OF THE COMMONWEALTH**

**SHEIKH NURU MOHAMMED - IMAM AT THE AL-ABBAS ISLAMIC CENTRE, BIRMINGHAM**

**MR RAJNISH KASHYAP - GENERAL SECRETARY, HINDU COUNCIL UK**

**MR GURMAIL SINGH MAHLI - PRESIDENT, GURDWARA SRI GURU SINGH SABHA SOUTHALL**

**PASTOR AGU IRUKWU, SENIOR PASTOR, JESUS HOUSE**