

Patient Update

Coronavirus - COVID-19

Friday 27th November 2020

COVID-19 Vaccination Program

You may have heard that a COVID Vaccine is expected to be made available very soon. Primary Care has been asked to deliver the vaccine to our patients. We are being asked to do this at scale by working with other local practices because of supply chain requirements and to enable an efficient service. There have been quite a few big asks on Primary Care this year but this one is vital to help our community and hopefully ease the national pandemic.

We will be working as a Federation to deliver this vaccine; this includes the following practices:

- Albany Surgery
- Bovey Tracey and Chudleigh Practices
- Buckland Surgery
- Cricketfield Surgery
- Devon Square
- Kingskerwell and Ipplepen Health Centres
- Kingsteignton Medical Practice



We are hoping to deliver the vaccines from a central location in Newton Abbot but will not be able to confirm this until we have more information available to us and probably not until we know when a vaccine is actually ready. We do not know when this will be other than potentially imminently. There are currently two front runners developing a vaccine and a third that may also be ready soon. None of them are officially approved for use yet. Therefore, we can also not give you any detailed information on the vaccine yet.

When we are able to deliver the vaccine, we will also be asked to follow prioritisation guidelines issued by NHS England, which means we will invite people to make appointments for the vaccination based on this.

As soon as we are able to provide our patients with detailed information then we will. Please bear with us.

Flu Vaccine

There has been talk for some time about making the flu vaccination available to all patients over 50yrs old. This will be available from December. Appointments are available to book online now. Please note we have limited stock available of the vaccine, but we do strongly encourage you to book as soon as possible to ensure you protect yourself and your loved ones from the flu virus this winter.

You can also still book an appointment for a flu vaccine if you fall into the original eligibility criteria:

- are 50 and over (including those who'll be 50 by 31st March 2021)
- have certain health conditions
- are pregnant
- are in long-stay residential care
- receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled
- person who may be at risk if you get sick
- live with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)
- frontline health or social care workers

Long-term health conditions

The flu vaccine is offered free on the NHS to anyone with a serious long-term health condition, including:

- respiratory conditions, such as asthma (needing steroid inhaler or tablets), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), including emphysema and bronchitis
- diabetes
- heart conditions, such as coronary heart disease or heart failure
- being very overweight – a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above
- chronic kidney disease
- liver disease, such as hepatitis
- neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), or cerebral palsy
- a learning disability
- problems with your spleen, for example, sickle cell disease, or if you have had your spleen removed
- a weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or taking medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy

Talk to your doctor if you have a long-term condition that is not in one of these groups. They should offer you the flu vaccine if they think you're at risk of serious problems if you get flu.