

# Flu Vaccination Clinic Information 2020

---

## **TELEPHONE BOOKINGS FOR 2020 WILL BE AVAILABLE FROM AUGUST 2020.**

**Important: please read this article in full before you book your appointment.**

**IN VIEW OF COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS THIS YEAR A PRE-BOOKED APPOINTMENT WILL BE REQUIRED FOR ALL CLINICS.**

**WE WILL NOT BE OFFERING WALK-IN CLINICS.**

**THERE WILL BE A LARGE NUMBER OF CLINICS THROUGHOUT SEPTEMBER & OCTOBER (including SATURDAYS) FOR ALL PATIENTS AGED 65 AND OVER AND THOSE AT RISK.**

**How you can help:**

- 1. Wear a face mask or covering – this is mandatory**
- 2. Wear loose clothing to allow quick access to your arm**
- 3. Arrive on time & within your appointment window**
- 4. Don't attend if unwell - contact the surgery to rearrange your appointment**
- 5. Don't drive if you can avoid it.**
- 6. Attend alone if possible.**

**TO ENSURE YOU ARE SAFE THERE WILL BE STRICT SOCIAL DISTANCING OF 2 METRES OUTSIDE THE SURGERY AND INSIDE. PLEASE DO NOT THEREFORE ARRIVE BEFORE YOUR ALLOTTED TIME.**

**WE WILL BE USING A ONE WAY SYSTEM THROUGH THE BUILDING AND STRICT APPOINTMENT TIMES IN ORDER TO MAINTAIN SOCIAL DISTANCING. THERE WILL BE STAFF AVAILABLE ON THE DAY TO ASSIST YOU BOTH INSIDE AND OUTSIDE THE BUILDING, SO PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO ASK IF YOU NEED HELP IN ANY WAY.**

**We understand you may be tempted to arrive before your appointment time. However, if you do you may be turned away and asked to return at your allotted appointment time.**

**If you arrive too late then you will be asked to rearrange your appointment.**

- The clinics are very fast moving clinics. You will arrive and be met by a member of staff in a fluorescent jacket who will check your details against the appointment list.**
- You will then be directed into the surgery at the appropriate time to be met by another member of staff who will instruct you to remove any coats or jackets and to roll up your sleeve ready for vaccination in one of the 4 vaccination bays set aside in the waiting room.**
- Immediately following your vaccination you will be directed to leave the building through the rear exit (or side exit if in a wheelchair or have difficulty in walking).**
- We will not have time to deal with any general queries during flu clinics as staff administering the vaccine must change PPE and ensure all equipment and surfaces are sanitised after each patient.**

**You may receive a personalised text message on your mobile phone promoting the service if you've given us permission to do so; just follow the instructions given in your message.**

**We will not be sending out letters to eligible patients to help minimise waste and impact on our environment; it also helps to reduce administration at the practice.**

**Therefore, if you are an eligible patient, or are a carer for an eligible patient, we recommend you provide us with a mobile number.**

**You do not have to wait until you receive a reminder to book your appointment, if you know you qualify. However please be aware that you will be asked by our reception team to briefly state why you are eligible.**

## **ARE YOU ELIGIBLE?**

All patients aged 65 and over (including those who become age 65 by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021) or those under 65 in one of the risk categories below are automatically eligible for the free flu vaccine.

*(If you have an allergy to eggs or any other allergic reaction to a vaccine, or are taking antibiotics at the time of the vaccine or do not wish to receive the flu vaccine, then please let us know.)*

### **At Risk Categories:**

Patients aged from 6 months to 64 years of age with a serious medical condition such as:

- Chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis
- Chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
- Chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease, or learning disability
- Diabetes
- Splenic dysfunction or asplenia
- A weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
- Morbidly obese (defined as BMI of 40 and above)
- All pregnant women
- Frontline Health & Social Workers

### **CHILDREN VACCINES:**

We plan to invite children in around October half-term week.

- All those aged two and three (but not four years or older) on 31 August 2020.

*(Children aged 4 years BEFORE or on 31st August 2020 are vaccinated as part of the school vaccine program. WE ARE NOT CONTRACTED TO VACCINATE THESE CHILDREN and therefore not funded to vaccinate. The school vaccine programme is responsible for notifying parents of school clinic dates, plus any catch up clinics. We do not have this information. Please do NOT miss these vaccine dates. We are unable to help if you do. Any child aged 4 years in any AT RISK category above can be vaccinated at surgery as we are contracted and funded to vaccinate at risk patients.)*

If you are unable to leave your home for medical reasons please do let us know as it may be possible for a Community Nurse to administer your flu vaccination at home subject to what the current COVID-19 restrictions at that time may be.

### **UPDATE: MORE PATIENTS LIKELY TO BE ELIGIBLE**

The Government has announced today that more patients will be eligible for a flu vaccine this year, including those aged 50 and over, shielded patients and their households.

However, they have not notified GP Surgeries on how stocks will be made available nor provided any advice, guidance or funding to support the massive logistical challenge of vaccinating 30 million people whilst maintaining safe working practices.

We have no further information other than what news and media outlets have provided, and we will update this page as soon as we receive any updates. In the meantime, please assist us by not contacting the surgery regarding this new development as we will be extremely busy taking thousands of phone calls from patients currently eligible for a flu vaccine.

### **UPDATE: COVID-19 VACCINE(S)**

We have no news on a possible COVID-19 vaccine being available. Details will be made available should the situation change.