

## **\*COVID Vaccine Update \***

Dear Patient,

We are all excited that there is real progress on a Covid-19 vaccine and that this should improve the quality of life for all of us.

We know that you, like us, are struggling with the confines imposed upon us all due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

Everyone is trying to make the best of the situation and, as a Practice, we are committed to caring for you in the best possible way whilst keeping both you and our team safe.

To keep you as informed as possible, we will update these messages as we become aware of more information from NHS England:

- We have to follow strict government guidelines which tell us which group of patients to vaccinate first.
- As we are part of the first wave of Practices, we have received an initial delivery of the vaccine and clinics were held last week for patients in the first cohort (over 80). Due to the number of vaccines received we have invited patients in age order starting with the oldest. We expect to need a further 2 or 3 deliveries to be able to offer all of the first age group the vaccination so some patients over 80 will not hear from us until January. We are waiting confirmation of when further supplies will be made to the Practice.

This priority list is as follows:

- residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
  - all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
  - all those 75 years of age and over
  - all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (previously known as shielding patients)
  - all those 65 years of age and over
  - all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
  - all those 60 years of age and over
  - all those 55 years of age and over
  - all those 50 years of age and over
- We will contact you if you are eligible for a vaccine when we know what date the vaccine is available for you. We are unable to start vaccinating patients in the next group of patients until given permission by the government.
  - It is essential, if you are given a vaccine that you return for the second part of the vaccination on the date that you are advised to.
  - Please do not telephone us to ask when or if you are going to get a Covid Vaccine. We will contact you individually if and when you are invited to have one and will keep this website updated with as much information as we can.

- We have many patients to vaccinate so we ask for your patience as we work through this vaccination programme which will last well into 2021.
- Some hospitals have now received the Pfizer/BioNTech Covid vaccine and have started to vaccinate patients. The hospitals are sending out invitations to the patients they are able to vaccinate.

Meanwhile, we all need to keep to the advice of hand-washing, face masks and social distancing but we all look forward to the time when we will return to life as normal.

Thank you for your patience