

SEPTEMBER 2020 NEWSLETTER

Flu Vaccination Programme

This year will be a little different. We have gazebos! We have fairy lights! We have a COVID friendly plan! We will be holding two big Saturday clinics – the 3rd and 17th October – and these will be by appointment only. We will need our protected car-parking spaces and the space in front of the surgery for those unable to get out of the car. We kindly ask parents of the footballers not to park in these areas. There will be clear 'no parking' cones and a 'flu clinic parking only' banner.

We will only be able to vaccinate those booked in. We ask you turn up on time and with a bare arm ready. There will be three vaccinators (wearing thermals). You will be checked in by a member of staff and then directed to a clinician armed with a needle and not afraid to use it. Please then leave the car park immediately as we hope patients will be arriving and leaving continuously.

If poor mobility is an issue, we can come to your car. A staff member will be directing parking. Simply state you will be staying in the car and she will let a vaccinator know.

In addition to the Saturday clinics, there will be frequent clinics held at the practice throughout October (again appointment only). For those for whom we have mobile numbers, we will be sending text invitations. For those without, please contact the practice from the beginning of October to book your slot. These will also be held outside.

We will be doing the "at risk" groups and over 65s first. Our first vaccine delivery is 30th September with the second delivery two weeks later. We will not be able to vaccinate 50-64 year olds who are not in an "at risk" group at least until November and only then depending on Government instructions, arrangements and availability of vaccine.

Chronic Disease Management

COVID has had a massive impact on the ability to perform annual checks. We are not currently allowed to carry out spirometry due to this being an aerosol generating procedure. We will be requesting bloods for diabetic and cerebrovascular disease monitoring. We will be carrying out telephone assessments where possible (if you have access to scales and a BP machine, this will help). F2F appointments will be arranged where necessary. Please get your bloods done if requested.

Learning Disability

We will shortly be contacting adult patients with learning disability for an annual health check. Each check is likely to last about an hour. It will cover a physical assessment as well as making sure you have access to all the support needed.

Cancer symptoms

Please do not ignore. If you have any symptom and you are concerned it could be cancer related, please get in touch. We will assess via telephone or e-consult in the first place and then arrange a F2F appointment if needed. Do not let the pandemic put you off seeking help. We are not closed (despite what you read in the press) – we are just seeing and treating patients in the safest manner possible given the times we are living in.