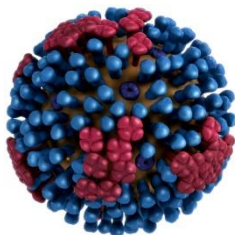




Your Flu Vaccination in 2020

We are now in the middle of the Flu vaccination season, with over 2,000 people already vaccinated at what you have told us were exemplary Saturday flu clinics. We felt now might be a good time to explain a few of the differences this year.

When are our vaccines ordered?



Our 2020 flu vaccinations were ordered in autumn last year. We ordered enough to vaccinate all patients that were eligible for the vaccine at that time. We like to order early so that our supply is secured.

We pay for these vaccines and if we don't use the vaccine by the end of February, we have to throw them away.

Is it true that healthy 50-64 year olds or Shielding patients should be given a Flu Vaccination?

This year, the Government announced that vaccines will be available for 'extra' groups of patients (those aged between 50 and 64 and Shielding patients and their families).

We are really pleased that we can offer this group of patients a vaccine but unfortunately we haven't received the vaccines from NHS England yet. Please look out for a text or on our social media pages about this.

In the meantime, we first have to vaccinate the patients that we ordered for in autumn 2019. These are:

- Adults aged 65 and over
- People with some medical conditions including diabetes, heart failure and asthma
- People who were required to shield from coronavirus and their household
- Pregnant women
- Children aged between two and 11
- Health and social care workers



Why are your clinics so late this year?

Our first flu clinic was held on the first Saturday after we receive the vaccines. There has been a very strict timing of vaccine supply this year, meaning we have been unable to start before 26th September. Our deliveries will be arriving in batches between 20th September and 14th November 2020.

In addition, normally at a flu clinic, we vaccinate one patient every minute. This year, due to Covid, we have to schedule 3 minutes per patient so that we can maintain social distancing and don't have too many patients in the building at any time.



Why did an 80 year old get their vaccine in September but a 64 year old with diabetes has to wait until November?

This is because there are two different types of vaccine: one for Under 65's and one for Over 65's. They come from different manufacturers and have been delivered at different times.

Finally, thank you for being so patient with us this year. We know it's been confusing and it may feel as though we're being unhelpful by not booking your vaccination as we have been able to previously. Although we are open as usual, we still need to make sure that we don't have too many patients in the waiting room at any one time to maintain social distancing.

The Practice is a place where the people who visit are sick, frail or elderly and we must do everything we can to keep you all safe.

Thank you for your understanding.



What you have been saying ...

"So well organised: in and out in 2 mins but nobody rushed you. Everyone was so friendly and happy. Well done to everybody."

"... well organised and so quick. To anyone who is apprehensive you have nothing to worry about."

"We were just like the injection: in & out in a moment. Still felt unhurried though, and very safe."

" We were greeted by a smiley lady who checked that we were fit enough to enter the building. Names were checked on entry and we were immediately guided to the waiting nurse. As it was my first time, she asked about any allergies and advised what to expect and how to deal with any symptoms that may occur. I didn't feel any pain and the whole experience lasted no more than 3 minutes. Wonderful professional service with a smile (even through the masks!)."