

## Newsletter

### Covid Vaccine update

We have had a number of enquiries in regards to cohort 10 (40-49 year olds). At present we have not been allocated any additional vaccines to immunise this group. When we receive notice of delivery of vaccines, you will be able to book these through the National Booking System online or by calling 119. We will not be booking appointments through our telephone lines. We will keep you fully informed of when the vaccines become available. We continue to provide 2nd dose vaccines for those who are due to be vaccinated.

Yours sincerely

Dr Edwards & Partners

We gave our first coronavirus vaccines on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2020. Since then the Westbury and Warminster PCN have given over 10,000 vaccines.

We have staff from both practices (Westbury Group Practice and The Avenue), the military, our volunteers and you, our patients, to thank for this huge achievement. It has not been without its challenges but we are proud to say that we have been able to invite everyone in cohorts 1 – 7. We are currently inviting people in cohorts 8 and 9.

### The cohorts explained

| Priority Group | Risk Group   |
|----------------|--|
| 1              | Residents in a care home for older adults<br>Staff working in care homes for older adults                                    |
| 2              | All those 80 years of age and over<br>Frontline health and social care workers   |
| 3              | All those 75 years of age and over   |
| 4              | All those 70 years of age and over<br>Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including those under 16years of age) |
| 5              | All those 65years of age and over  |
| 6              | Adults age 16 to 65 years with an underlying health condition  |
| 7              | All those 60 years of age and over   |
| 8              | All those 55 years of age and over   |
| 9              | All those 50 years of age and over   |

If you feel you are in one of those cohorts and have not been invited for a vaccine please contact the surgery to book your appointment.

Cohort 6 includes people with learning disabilities and severe mental illness (schizophrenia, bipolar, eating disorders, personality disorders or any mental illness causing severe functional impairment). Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have a learning disability

or a severe mental illness and have not had a vaccine. If you have any concerns or special requirements please let us know so we can meet your needs.

### The vaccines

We have been giving both the Pfizer and the AstraZeneca vaccines. We are currently not able to order the vaccine ourselves so are governed by the national programme in terms of which vaccine we have and when we have it. The vast majority of first doses we are giving now will be AstraZeneca. Our AstraZeneca clinics are in our porta cabins and our Pfizer clinics are in the main surgery building. Both vaccines are safe and effective. As healthcare professionals we have great confidence in both vaccines and are proud to be part of such a historic programme.

### Second appointments

We are routinely booking second dose appointments for 11 weeks from the first dose. The appointment will be on the same day of the week at the same time as the first dose. In order to achieve the best possible protection from the vaccine it is essential that everyone has a second dose. All of our second dose clinics are fully booked so we are unable to bring forward appointments without there being a specific medical need.

### More information

If you would like some more information about the vaccine please look at the NHS web pages [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccine - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk) or if you have concerns specific to you please contact the surgery.