

Flu Vaccination Programme 2020

The 2020 Flu Vaccination Programme will commence in October 2020. This year due to the COVID-19 pandemic our clinics will be running differently due to the requirement to adhere to social distancing. This page on our website will be updated frequently and will provide you with the latest information on flu vaccination and we respectfully request that you refer to this rather than telephoning the practice.

When will the vaccination programme commence?

Vaccines are being delivered to practices in late September so our clinics will commence 3 October 2020.

As in previous years we will be conducting most of the flu clinics out with normal practice hours.

How does COVID-19 affect my flu vaccination?

The practice has to run our flu clinics differently this year due to the requirement for social distancing. We will be running dedicated flu clinics, most of them on Saturdays.

It is important to understand that as we are limited to the number of people that we can book per session, we will be required to run more sessions than usual and the vaccination programme will take longer to get through this year than it has in the past. If a patient books an appointment and fails to attend, they have denied others the chance to be vaccinated so please be considerate to others and cancel an appointment if necessary rather than just not turning up.

Alternatively, patients can access flu vaccinations via their local pharmacy. This is also being run on an appointment based system and there will be a charge of £11.99.

Why are clinics being held at weekends?

We can only have a maximum number of patients within our building at any one time. We therefore feel it is important to allow all of our routine surgeries to proceed as normal so that patients can continue to attend the surgery for appointments with our nursing team, and if necessary with our GP's following telephone triage. We believe that having dedicated flu clinics out with normal hours is the safest way to proceed for both our staff and patients and it will allow us to book more patients per session than we could if we were operating them within normal working hours.

It is important to understand that every GP Practice works differently so you may learn that other practices are doing clinics in a different way.

How will the clinics be run?

We will be operating a one-way system within the building and due to social distancing we will be operating a walk through system. You will enter through the main door, using the hand sanitiser at the entrance and join the socially distanced queue. There will be no seating available so that we can keep people moving through and once you get the flu vaccine there will be a staff member to guide you out the exit.

We will only be undertaking flu and pneumococcal vaccination(if eligible) at the clinics. This is in compliance with the guidance from the government. We will be able to administer shingles vaccinations later in the year.

IT IS VERY IMPORTANT THAT PATIENTS COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING:

- Arrive on time - not early or late
- Car parking will be an issue – where possible please be dropped off
- Wear a face covering (unless exempt)
- Arrive alone (unless you require assistance from a relative or carer) or unless you are attending with another family member from your household who is also being vaccinated
- Strict one way system in place
- Please wear a short sleeved top/shirt as there will be other patients queuing and we need access to your arm quickly
- We are aiming to get through a large volume of patients so you will be vaccinated standing and then asked to move to the exit
- Adhere to social distancing at all times
- You will only receive your flu and pneumococcal vaccine (if eligible) on the day. No other health issues will be discussed and there will be no opportunity to request prescriptions or any other advice from clinicians
- We will begin with patients over 65, patients who were shielding and those they live with (except primary school children) and patients aged between 18 – 64 in an “At risk” group
- Primary school children will be immunised in school. We will run clinics for pre-school children after the October school holidays
- Patients aged 55-64 are eligible to have the flu vaccine this year. This group will be vaccinated from December 2020 as per Scottish Government guidance (unless you fall into a risk group or stay with a patient who was shielding)

We appreciate this is very different from what we are used to but for patient safety the flu clinics must be run this way

****DO NOT ATTEND IF YOU HAVE ANY COVID SYMPTOMS – PERSISTENT COUGH, FEVER AND/OR LOSS OF/CHANGE IN TASTE OR SMELL**