



THE WILSON PRACTICE

Patient update 4 February 2021

Coronavirus vaccination latest

How are we doing?

- As at 1 February 2021, 1,984 Wilson Practice patients had had their first vaccination
- We have achieved 93% coverage in the over-80 age group (detail below)
- All 70-79 year old patients have been invited; they are being booked and vaccinated as quickly as possible

Developments

We are very pleased to confirm that all care home residents who wanted to have the vaccine, and are able to have it, have now been vaccinated with their first dose. All of our patients aged over 80 years have also now been invited and the vast majority of those have been vaccinated. Anyone who has tested positive for Covid-19 within the last four weeks must wait to be vaccinated until four weeks have passed. We monitor this closely and will ensure that these patients are vaccinated as soon as timing allows.

We are now inviting those under 70 years of age who have medical conditions that make them clinically extremely vulnerable. Many have already attended the vaccination centre in Chineham this week and many more are booked for their vaccination next week.

Second doses

The second dose of vaccine will be given 11 weeks after the first dose. Those attending the clinic from now on will automatically have this second appointment booked and confirmed at the time. If you have already had your first dose, please do not be concerned; you will be contacted by telephone to confirm the date and time of your next visit. There is no need for you to telephone the surgery to arrange your second appointment; we will call you.

Health and care workers

Vaccination of health and care workers is being coordinated through the employing organisations so if you are in this group and have any queries or concerns, please refer to your employer for advice.

Focus on – vaccination invitations

We know that there has been some confusion, with patients receiving more than one communication about vaccination options. These are explained below.

Groups of people are invited for vaccination according to Government guidelines. The groups are largely related to age, as this is now understood to be the highest risk factor for serious complications arising from Covid-19 infection.

Local invitation

As each age group becomes eligible to be invited for vaccination, the GP surgery generates a text invitation to all those patients who have a mobile phone number recorded in their medical record. This text includes an electronic link to book online at the GP vaccination

service; ours is at the Hampshire Court Hotel in Basingstoke. Those with no mobile telephone number recorded, along with those who do not respond to the text, are telephoned, either by someone at the surgery or by one of the wider team of people supporting the GP vaccination programme. If the team is not able to make contact, a letter is sent, to ensure that no-one misses out on the opportunity to be vaccinated. The letter from the practice invites patients to call a central number at the hotel (not the practice) to book a vaccination appointment.

National invitation

In addition patients may also receive a letter from NHS England. This letter contains details of other vaccination sites, along with electronic links to book an appointment at one of these; there is also a phone line to call for people who prefer this route. The list of vaccination sites is growing all the time as new facilities are opened up. Patients are free to choose whether they wish to attend one of these sites, and if so which one.

To summarise, there are two forms of invitation, local and national:

1. **From the practice:** a text invite to the GP-led vaccination hub. This has a link to book into the GP hub at the Hampshire Court Hotel, Chineham. The practice will follow up, by telephone or letter, those patients who have not booked following receipt of the text
2. **From NHS England:** a letter inviting patients to book an appointment at a number of other venues. Patients can only book into these alternative venues using the details in this letter; the link / call line does not offer appointments at the Hampshire Court Hotel.

Although each of the alternative vaccination facilities is being set up independently and local GPs have no influence on these, they are all part of the national vaccination programme supporting people to get access to the vaccine. We welcome all the additional services, especially as we get closer to giving second doses of vaccine to some patients as well as continuing to invite additional age groups to have their first one. There are busy times ahead, so please bear with us!

And finally.....

The Covid Vaccination Programme is a mammoth undertaking which will be with us for many months. Staff throughout the NHS and voluntary agencies, and our patients, are all working really hard to support the programme to get as many people vaccinated as quickly as possible. We are very grateful for the part everyone is playing.

