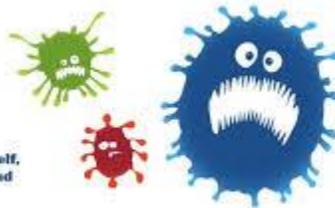


# Flu Special Patient Newsletter

## October 2020



**Flu  
jab**  
Protect yourself,  
your family and  
colleagues



We are now in the middle of the Flu vaccination season and we felt it might be a good time to explain some of the things that are different this year.

### When are our vaccines ordered?



Our 18 – 64 year old and over 65 year old flu vaccinations were ordered in December last year. We ordered 5000 vaccines in total, which is enough to vaccinate all patients that were eligible for the vaccine at that time.

We pay for these vaccines and if we don't use the vaccine by the end of March, 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 the vaccine is being offered to this group of patients, but unfortunately we have no further info regarding this.

Please note that people in the 50-64-year old age group will not be vaccinated until November and December, providing there is sufficient vaccine, and no appointments will be offered for this age group until then. This is to ensure that those who are most at risk are vaccinated first. If you are 50-64 and you are in one of the other groups which is

eligible for the flu vaccination, for example you have a health condition which puts you at risk from the flu, you will be invited earlier.

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

- patients aged 65 and over (including those who'll be 65 by 31 March 2021)
- those who have certain health conditions
- patients who are pregnant
- patients who are in a long-stay residential care
- patients who receive a carer's allowance, or are the main carer for an older or disabled person who may be at risk if you get sick

### **Why are your clinics so late this year?**

Our first flu clinic is held the week after we receive the vaccines. This is to allow us 'wriggle room', as we have unfortunately been let down by suppliers previously, and have had to cancel and rebook appointments.



This year, our flu vaccine deliveries are between 21<sup>st</sup> September and 14<sup>th</sup> November in 7 staggered deliveries from two different suppliers.

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 as stated above.



### **When are children being vaccinated?**

We are currently receiving a lot of calls regarding child flu vaccinations, in response to a letter that NHS England has sent out.

We are restricted to how many vaccines we can order at any one time, therefore we are staggering invites based on this. Invites are in the process of being sent out.

### **What if I'm housebound?**

The District Nursing Team is supporting us in administering the vaccines to our housebound patients. The work is being co-ordinated by them and we will be providing them with vaccines upon our next delivery mid-October.

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 or not letting you wait in the waiting room

Although we are open as usual (but with different methods), we need to make sure that we don't have too many patients in the waiting room at any time so that we can 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.

***Our temporary Flu Line number is 0114 4333704 between 10 and 3 Monday to Friday. Please do not call our main telephone number to book a flu vaccine, as we need to keep this free for other calls.***

Thank you for your understanding and support.

**Swallownest Health Centre**