



Swallownest Health Centre

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By email

Dear Tony, Maria and Mark,

Thank you for your letter and for the hard work you have all shown in supporting the community during these difficult times.

We've worked very hard along with our neighbouring practices to get our vaccination programme up and running to cover the 4 practices within our primary care network (Swallownest, Kiveton, Thurcroft and Dinnington). When the service was commissioned, one of the stipulations in the contract was that it needed to be delivered on a Primary Care Network footprint, due to the logistics of vaccine delivery. Therefore there was no option given to us of delivering the service at a practice level. Inevitably this has meant that we needed to find a solution that could work for all 4 practices and using the site at Anston has allowed us to get the programme up and running at speed. Indeed we were the first PCN in the Rotherham area to begin vaccinating with the covid-19 jab.

Our Primary Care Network is now also working to get housebound patients vaccinated by the District Nursing team using supplies of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine - which the Network have only just started to receive.

The practice team fully appreciates the merits of delivering a vaccination programme locally. We've had fantastic community support and engagement with the flu vaccination programme, which was a great success this year and continues to run at multiple weekly clinics at Swallownest Health Centre. We will continue to review the situation regularly regarding the covid vaccination programme, however at present there simply is not a reliable enough supply of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine to roll out the vaccination from individual practices or indeed another site in Swallownest. The logistics of the Pfizer vaccine mean that delivery at Anston site continues to be only viable way of delivering that vaccine at present.

We will however continue to assess the viability of delivering vaccinations at a site in Swallownest, and indeed it would our preference to do so once the situation becomes feasible in terms of supply of the Astra-Zeneca vaccine.

Yours sincerely on behalf of The Partners,

Dr Kevin Tarbutt.
GP Partner