**BOOK YOUR FLU VACCINATION!**

**Do not attend the practice if you have symptoms of Covid-19 (cough, temperature or loss/altered sense of smell or taste) or have been in contact with anyone with these symptoms**

Due to Covid-19, flu clinics will run slightly differently this year. Please read the Q&As below for guidance.

**Q&As**

**Who will be offered a flu vaccine this year?**

Those on the ‘Clinically at Risk’ list\* and those patients aged over 65 years of age, as well as patients who have been shielded and their families.

**How do I get a flu vaccine if I am in the 50-64 age range and am not in a ‘Clinically At Risk’ category?**

The government have not yet advised how patients aged 50-64 who are not already in a ‘Clinically At Risk’ group will be vaccinated and we will **NOT** be taking bookings for this age group unless you are in one of the at risk groups. If we are advised to vaccinate this age group, you will receive a text later on in the year. We kindly ask that you do **NOT** telephone reception as this will prevent others from getting through.

**How do I book an appointment?**

If you have a mobile number listed on your record, you will have received a text offering you a flu vaccine. Please phone reception to book your appointment. **Please note due to flu vaccine delivery dates which are outside our control, we will be inviting patients in stages. Please do not worry if you have not received an invitation.**

**What time should I arrive at the surgery?**

We are reducing the numbers of patients we have in the surgery at any one time. You will be given a timeslot to arrive at the surgery.

**What should I do when I arrive at the surgery?**

Please arrive at the given time and not before or after. Please follow the directional signs up the stairs. Only one person is allowed to use the lift at one time (unless with family members). Please use the hand sanitizer provided on arrival. Report to the reception desk to check in. You will then be directed to wait in a separate part of the waiting room until the nurse calls you into the room.

**What should I wear?**

Wear a top/coat that is loose-fitting so you can easily remove this to reveal your arm. Please wear a face covering when attending the practice.

**Who can come with me?**

You must come alone unless you need a carer to assist you. Couples or families that have booked appointments at the same time can of course come together but may be called in separately.

**How do I exit the building after my flu vaccination has been given to me?**

Once your vaccine has been administered, you will be asked to exit the room via a separate door. Please leave the practice immediately by following the directional arrows down the stairs. Press the green exit button to exit the surgery.

**What do I do if I have symptoms of Covid-19 or I am unable to make my appointment?**

Please ring us so that we can cancel your appointment and give it to someone else who may desperately need vaccinating. We will have lots of flu clinics available so there will be plenty of opportunity to re-book your appointment at a later date.

**\*Please see list below for those eligible for flu vaccinations:**

* chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis (Note to patients with Asthma - you will only be invited if you have continuous steroid therapy or hospital admissions
* chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
* chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five
* chronic liver disease
* chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson’s disease or motor neurone disease,
* learning disability
* diabetes
* splenic dysfunction or asplenia
* a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
* morbidly obese (defined as BMI of 40 and above)
* people aged 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2021)
* all pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)
* household contacts of those on the NHS Shielded Patient List, or of immunocompromised individuals, specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation with a shielded patient on most days over the winter and therefore for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable
* carers that are in receipt of a carer’s allowance, or who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill

**Thank you for your kind support during flu season!**