

Hillview Medical Centre – Flu Vaccination Newsletter

The flu vaccination is available every year on the NHS to help protect adults and children at risk of flu and its complications.

We are expecting a high demand for flu vaccinations this year and so we have put together the following information to clarify how our flu vaccination clinics will run in Autumn 2020.

The process of delivering flu vaccination clinics begins several months before the practice starts the vaccination programme each autumn. At the end of 2019 we calculated the number of vaccines we needed to order based on the government eligibility criteria at that time and based on previous demand from our patients to be vaccinated.

Since we ordered our vaccines, the government has added an additional patient group to those who are eligible - the over 50s. Please see below for further information if you are in this group, as we are not able to offer you the flu vaccination at the current time but will update this group of patients on vaccine availability as soon as we receive information about this from NHS England.

We also anticipate an increased demand this year as a result of the coronavirus pandemic.

And we recognise that some of our patients, particularly those who are at higher risk, may have concerns about attending the practice at this time.

The following information clarifies our process for prioritizing patients who need to be vaccinated early on in the flu vaccination programme and what we are doing to ensure the safety of patients and staff when running our flu clinics.

Who is eligible for the flu vaccination this year?

People with certain medical conditions

If you are under 65 with a long-term condition please contact the surgery to make an appointment for your flu vaccination. You will be booked into a set clinic which we are holding for under 65s. We will be sending text invites but you do not need to wait for your invite to contact us

Adults 65 and over (as of 31st March 2021)

If you are over 65 please contact the surgery to make an appointment for your flu vaccination. You will be booked into a set clinic which we are holding for patients aged 65 and over. We will be sending text invites but you do not need to wait for your invite to contact us

Over 50 and under 65 without a long term condition

You may be aware that the government recently announced that the 2020 flu vaccination programme would be available to people over 50 for the first time.

However, flu vaccines are ordered by the practice 9 months before the flu vaccination programme starts, which means we do not currently have vaccines for this group.

We understand that vaccines for this additional group are being organised by NHS England. We await information on when these will be available but we do not anticipate this happening before November 2020.

This is outside of our control but we will communicate with this group of patients as soon as we receive further information about this. **Meanwhile please do not call the practice regarding flu vaccinations for the over 50s.** We will contact you by text and update our website as soon as we have confirmed dates for being able to offer vaccinations to this group.

Family members of people who have been shielding from coronavirus

As for the Over 50s, we do not yet have vaccines for this group. We will contact this group of patients when we receive further information from NHS England regarding this.

Pregnant women

If you are pregnant we will be sending text invites but you do not need to wait for your invite to contact us

Children

We will be contacting patients regarding childhood flu vaccinations that are not carried out as part of the school programme as soon as we have confirmed delivery dates of these vaccines. If you have not heard from us by the beginning of October please contact us

Unpaid carers

If you are an unpaid carer you can join our carers register. Please complete a form when you are next in the surgery. This can be when you attend for your vaccination

Unpaid carers are able to receive a flu vaccination.

When the person you care for receives their invite to book an appointment you will be able to book yours too.

Clinic Times

Our flu vaccination clinics will start on Monday 14 September and will run through September and October.

Booking Your Appointment

We will be texting (or phoning patients for whom we do not have a mobile number) who are eligible for the vaccination. You do not need to wait to be contacted before you can book your appointment. You may still receive a text invite if you have booked an appointment as these are automated.

Please contact the practice to make your appointment. You can do this as follows:

- Please call the practice on **01527 66511** after 12pm if possible to make your flu vaccination appointment.
- Please avoid calling for to make a flu vaccination appointment in the morning when our phone call demand is at its peak.

Keeping you safe

We will be delivering the flu vaccination programme in a different way this year, to ensure it is socially distanced and safe for our patients and staff.

How are we doing this?

- Staff administering your vaccine will be wearing personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Patients attending the practice are asked to wear face coverings.
- Appointments have been allocated to allow minimal waiting time in the practice

What to do when you come for your appointment

We are asking patients to follow these guidelines when attending their flu vaccination appointment:

- Please wear a face covering when attending the practice.
- Arrive promptly, ideally as close to your appointment time as possible.
- Please do not enter the building until 10 minutes before your appointment time.
- Please let reception know when you arrive and move to the waiting area so you can see the calling board
- Please wear clothing that ensures your arm is ready for the vaccination as soon as you go in to see the clinician e.g. a short sleeve top, with any jacket / coat / jumper removed whilst you wait.
- Please cancel your appointment as soon as possible if you are unable to attend – these clinics are extremely popular and this means we can offer the slot to someone else.
- As with all appointments at the current time, please do not visit the practice if you have a fever, cough or have lost your sense of taste or smell. Please cancel and rearrange your appointment if you have any of these symptoms.