

# Flu vaccination programme 2020

Planning for this year's Flu immunisation programme is now well underway at the Practice. Flu vaccination is one of the most effective interventions we have to protect those at risk, prevent ill-health and minimise further impact on the NHS and Social Care.

This year will be the most challenging year that we have faced. We have to factor in social distancing to keep everyone safe, Vaccination and PPE supply and recently released guidance and prioritise those most clinically at risk.

## HOW?

The Practice will start to write to Patients most clinically at risk with a specific time slot of when to attend. Patients will have to bring along their invitation as this will be your "ticket". Patients will be vaccinated in their left arm unless there is a medical reason for us not to be able to. We will be reducing the number of staff on site for your safety so ask you to be prepared with your ticket, a short-sleeved shirt/top and a face covering.

## WHEN?

We will be running Flu Vaccination clinics on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings from Saturday 12<sup>th</sup> September to Saturday 17<sup>th</sup> October. These clinics will be by appointment only and fast paced. If you feel you may need longer please contact us to re-arrange your appointment.

# WHO?

This year the flu vaccine is being offered on the NHS to:

- **Adults 65 and over** (including anyone who will be 65 by the 31st March 2021)
- **People with certain medical conditions** (including children in at-risk groups from 6 months of age) *Chronic Respiratory disease, Chronic heart disease, Chronic Kidney disease, Chronic liver disease, Chronic Neurological disease, Diabetes, on Immunosuppression therapy*
- **Pregnant women**
- **Carers** including people living with someone who is at high risk from coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)
- **children aged 2 and 3** on 31 August 2020
- **children in primary school** (n.b. these vaccines are available via the school ONLY)
- **children in year 7 (secondary school)** (n.b. these vaccines are available via the school ONLY)
- **frontline health or social care workers**

Invitations will start to be sent at the end of August. If attending the Practice for your Flu Vaccination **PLEASE BRING THIS LETTER, AS IT IS YOUR TICKET**

# Frequently asked questions

## **I am aged 50-64, am I also now eligible?**

Later in the year, the flu vaccine is expected to be able to be given to people aged 50 to 64.

More information will be available to the 50-64 'newly eligible' patients later in the autumn and until then, Harbour Medical Practice appointments are only being opened up to be booked by those patients who were already eligible. We have to prioritise vaccine stock for the most vulnerable patients first.

- If you're aged 50 to 64 but also in another at-risk group, you should attend for your flu vaccine and not wait

- If you're aged 50 to 64 and were not already in an at risk group, please ensure the practice has a correct mobile number and address for you, as details will be sent by text about the availability of additional vaccines later in the season.

## **I am almost 65, am I eligible now?**

Yes. As with previous years, anyone who will be 65 years old by the 31st March 2021 will be entitled to receive a flu vaccine from the 65+ supply even before they physically turn 65.

## **Can I have my flu vaccine when I am coming up the surgery for another medical reason?**

Yes, but only if you have an appointment and only if time allows on the day.

If an eligible patient is already coming to Harbour Medical Practice for a face to face appointment with a GP, Nurse or HCA a flu vaccine can potentially be given if time allows on the day.