

## Old Bridge Surgery Autumn/Winter 2020



The delivery of our flu programme has been adjusted this year to allow for new guidelines that have been put in place due to the coronavirus. You will find information below on the delivery of our flu programme for Autumn/Winter 2020. Please support your practice by attending the surgery for your flu vaccine. Your safety and the health of our community is our priority and we thank you for your support in advance.

### Who is eligible?

#### Adults:

- All patients aged 65 years (as at 31/03/2021) and over qualify.
- Patients under 65 years who have one of the following:
  - They are a carer (in receipt of carer's allowance)
  - They are pregnant
  - They live in the same household as a shielded patient
  - Chronic (long-term) respiratory diseases, such as asthma (which requires regular inhaled or tablet steroid treatment, or has led to hospital admission in the past), chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD), emphysema or bronchitis
  - Chronic heart disease, such as heart failure and previous heart attacks
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - Chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
  - Chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), learning disability or cerebral palsy
  - Diabetes
  - Problems with their spleen – for example, sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
  - A weakened immune system as the result of conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medication such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
  - Being seriously overweight (BMI of 40 or above)
- Patients aged 50-64 who do not typically qualify for a free flu vaccine, will not be vaccinated until November and December, providing there is sufficient vaccine

#### Children:

- Children aged 2 or 3 on 31 August 2020—that is, children born between 1 September 2016 and 31 August 2018
- All primary school children and children in year 7 of secondary school (vaccinations will be administered in school)
- Children aged 2 to 17 with long-term health conditions
- They live in the same house as a shielded patient

### Staged delivery of vaccinations

**At risk children**, excluding primary school children and children in year 7 can book **NOW**, with our first clinics available from Monday 14 September. **Adults aged 65 and over** can also book **NOW**, with our first clinics starting from Wednesday 23 September. Appointments for **vulnerable patients aged 18 to 64 years** can be booked from Monday 21 September, with our first clinics starting from Wednesday 7 October.

At this stage, no appointments will be offered to patients aged 50-64 who typically do not qualify for a free flu vaccine. Availability is expected November / December and this reflects the latest NHS England guidance, with further updates from the surgery as soon as possible.

## [How to book an appointment for a flu vaccine](#)

### **PLEASE CHECK THAT YOU ARE ELIGIBLE FOR THE FLU VACCINE BEFORE MAKING AN APPOINTMENT.**

To book your flu appointment, please call the surgery on **01503 266 960** (and select option **8**). If this is your first flu vaccination, or if you have a latex or egg allergy, please let our team know so that you can be booked into an appropriate clinic. If you qualify for a pneumonia or shingles vaccination, you will be invited to have these at the same time too.

## **What have we done to protect you from risk of infection**

As well as all of the current strict protocols put in place due to Covid-19, such as social distancing, reduced number of face-to-face appointments across the surgery, PPE, Covid screening etc, a number of measures specifically aimed at delivering our flu clinics have been put in place such as:

- Early bird invitations sent to our shielded patients
- Two drive-thru's being held at Looe Community Academy, so you can be vaccinated without leaving your car.
- Specific Child Flu Clinics
- No walk in clinics
- One way systems throughout the buildings



## **What can you do to help?**

There are a number of ways in which you can help to ensure your appointment runs smoothly and to help us ensure the safety of our staff and patients:

- Please do not arrive early or late for your appointment, as it really important that we control the number of patients going through the clinics.
- Book appointments as soon as possible and attend in family bubbles (where you can).
- Observe social distancing and wear a face covering – if you are exempt from wearing a face covering please advise reception at the time of booking.
- Do not turn up to the surgery without an appointment—we are not doing walk in flu clinics this year.
- Use the toilet before attending and if attending one of the Drive-Thru's, stay in your car and only open your windows when instructed.
- Wear a short sleeved, loose top to allow easy access for vaccination. If the weather is cold please wear layers that you can easily and quickly remove such as cardigans or zip up coats/jackets.
- You will not be able to do anything other than receive your flu vaccine during the flu clinics, so please do not delay the staff by asking to book further appointments etc.
- Do not attend the surgery or the flu clinics with Covid Symptoms, or if your household are isolating due to Test & Trace etc.

