

## Covid & Flu Update – Time to Top-Up

7th September 2022

As we head into Autumn, we would like to take this opportunity to share the surgery plans to deliver Covid and Flu vaccines.

### **Covid has not gone away**

Whilst more recently many patients have experienced milder symptoms, the reality is that some patients are still becoming unwell so vaccinations need 'topping up', especially as immunity is waning.

The hospitals have seen first-hand how the successful vaccination programme has been able to save lives, enabling them to free up beds and re-focus on vital services. Therefore, we should not be complacent and undo this hard work. When invited for a Covid booster/flu vaccination *please* take advantage of it to help protect yourself, your families, our community and the NHS.

### **Priorities**

Over the coming weeks, NHS England have asked surgeries to initially focus on care home residents and staff, as well as housebound patients. Old Bridge Surgery will start these as early as tomorrow.

Our first large scale clinics will take place at Looe Community Academy on Saturday October 1<sup>st</sup>, with further large-scale clinics being held on Saturday October 15<sup>th</sup> and Saturday October 29<sup>th</sup>. These will be supported with some limited smaller clinics at the surgery.

With a team of GPs, Nurses and Healthcare Assistants on hand, and of course the continued support of the Looe Lions, we look forward to seeing as many patients as possible.

If you have recently had a Covid booster, you will need to ***wait at least 91 days*** for your next Covid booster.

<b>Eligibility 2022-23</b>	
All adults aged 50 and over (including those who will be 50 on or before 31 March 2023)	Covid & Flu
Residents and staff in a care home	Covid & Flu
Frontline Health & Social Workers	Covid & Flu
Persons aged 5-49 years in a clinical risk group (see below)	Covid & Flu
2 & 3 year olds (delivered by the surgery in nursery settings)	Flu
Primary and secondary school children (details to be confirmed)	Flu

<b>Clinical Risk groups for patients 5-49 years</b>	<b>Currently calling 'high risk' patients 18 years or older</b>
Chronic Respiratory Disease i.e. COPD and Asthma patients taking regular steroids	Chronic Heart Disease & Chronic Vascular Disease
Chronic Liver Disease	Chronic Kidney Disease
Chronic Neurological Disease	Diabetes & other endocrine disorder
Immunosuppression	Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen
Morbid Obesity – BMI 40+	Severe Enduring Mental Illness
Pregnancy	Household contacts of Immunosuppressed
Carers	Learning Disability

### **Call now**

If you are 65 years old or over, or an **adult** who was previously identified as 'high risk' (shielded), you are being invited to call the surgery **01503 266960** (option 2, *after 10am*) to pre-book your Covid and Flu vaccines **NOW**.

Other eligible patients will be invited as soon as possible.

Kind regards,

GP Partners and Team

Old Bridge Surgery