

**Update – 4<sup>th</sup> September 2023**  
**Covid & Flu Vaccinations – Book your appointments now**

As we head into autumn, we are reminded that Covid has not gone away.

To help protect everyone and the NHS, you may have read that the Covid vaccination programme has been accelerated with the direction to ensure that all eligible patients are vaccinated before the end of October 2023. This is due to increasing cases and the emergence of a new variant which is currently being monitored.

Many of you have already booked in your appointments and to help with the increased demand, we have introduced extra clinics starting from as early as September 15<sup>th</sup> which you can call to book into immediately.

**Priorities**

<b>Eligibility 2023-24</b>	
All patients aged 65 years or over at March 31 <sup>st</sup> 2024	Covid & Flu
Those in long stay residential care homes	Covid & Flu
Persons aged 6 months -64 years in clinical risk groups (see below)	Covid & Flu
Persons aged 12-64 year who live in the same house of someone with immunosuppression	Covid & Flu
Pregnant Women	Covid & Flu
All children aged 2 & 3 on 31 <sup>st</sup> August 2023 (delivered by the surgery in nursery settings)	Flu
Primary school children (reception to year 6, delivered by the school immunisation service)	Flu
Secondary school children (under review, awaiting an update, although will be delivered by the school immunisation service)	Flu
Carers in receipt of carers allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person	Covid & Flu
Frontline workers in a social care setting, without an employer led occupational health scheme, including those working for a registered care or nursing home, registered domiciliary care providers, voluntary managed hospice providers and those that are employed by someone who receive direct payments (personal budgets) or personal health budgets, such as Personal Assistants	Covid & Flu

<b>Clinical Risk groups for patients</b>	
<b>6 months to 64 years</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
Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen	Patients with learning disabilities
Morbid Obesity – BMI 40+	Severe Enduring Mental Illness

To book your appointment, please call the surgery on **01503 266960**. Please call after 11am, weekdays, and select option 2.

In the meantime:

1. Please [click here](#) for some useful information for patients with symptoms of a respiratory infection.
2. If attending the surgery with respiratory symptoms (cough / colds / sore throat), or if you have been in contact with someone who has had Covid in the last 5 days, please can we kindly request that you undertake a Covid test (available at local pharmacies) and wear one of the masks provided, so that we can continue to protect our vulnerable patients and staff.

**...finally, thank you from Dr Allen**



After 40 years in the NHS, Dr Allen has finally hung up her stethoscope. Whilst we are sad to see her go, we wish her a long and happy retirement.

Dr Allen would like to pass on her sincere thanks and appreciation for all the cards, gifts and good wishes that she received from patients at Old Bridge Surgery.

Kind regards,

GP Partners and Team  
Old Bridge Surgery