



The Crown Medical Centre

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Dear Patient

We are still running our flu clinics in house this year but as you would expect, there will be a few changes in light of guidance we need to follow to ensure your safety and that of our team at the practice. This letter will outline our plans.

Who is eligible for a free flu vaccination?

There are separate groups of patients we will be vaccinating and they are as follows:-

- children aged 2 to 3 years, children of reception and primary school age, and, for the first time this year (2020) children in Year 7. In addition, children who are clinically at risk are offered the vaccine from the age of six months. Those children at school will be given their flu vaccination in the school setting
- pregnant women
- those aged 65 years and over
- those in long-stay residential care homes
- carers
- close contacts of immunocompromised individuals (those patients living with patients who have been shielding)
- health and social care staff employed by a registered residential care/nursing home, registered domiciliary care provider, or a voluntary managed hospice provider.
- NHS workers
- Patients under 65 years of age **who have a specific clinical condition** (see below)

Eligible clinical conditions

- chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis;
- chronic heart disease, such as heart failure;
- chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five;
- chronic liver disease;
- chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson's disease or motor neurone disease, or learning disability;
- diabetes;
- immunosuppression, a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment);
- asplenia (having no spleen) or splenic dysfunction;
- morbid obesity

What about additional patient groups?

You may have seen in the news that patients aged 50-64 can also have a vaccination (without having one of the medical conditions listed). However, we are not permitted to vaccinate this group of patients until we have vaccinated those patients in the at risk groups. We need to wait for Government approval to vaccinate this group and we will contact patients in that group later in the flu season.

PATIENTS WHO ARE UNDER 65 YEARS OF AGE IN AN AT RISK GROUP SHOULD ATTEND AS USUAL.

Are there different flu vaccinations this year?

There are different vaccines depending on your age with one type for over 65s and another for under 65s.

Flu clinics

Our flu clinic dates are now being added to our appointments system so you can phone for an appointment if you meet one of the criteria listed above. They will be starting in mid-September. If you are under 65 you will be asked for the specific at risk category you fall into so that we can ensure we are giving the vaccination to the most appropriate patients. We cannot give a flu vaccination to anyone not in an at risk group at the current time.

There will be separate flu clinics for over 65s and under 65s. To ensure that the correct vaccination is administered we will not be able to administer a flu vaccination to you if you attend the wrong clinic. Unfortunately, this means that a husband and wife (for example) who fall into different age group categories will need to attend different clinics.

What to expect at the practice

When you make your appointment you will be given a specific time for your appointment. Please do not arrive at the surgery before your allocated appointment time. Two nurses will be running the clinic in separate rooms. You will be asked to queue in the practice in a socially distanced manner wearing a face covering. The two nurses will select patients off the same clinic list and you will be called into one of the two rooms for your vaccination. The rooms are down one corridor in the building and we are not running any other nurse clinics that day to minimise the number of patients in the building at any one time.

When you have had your vaccination you will be asked to leave the room via a different door to the one you entered. You will exit the surgery into the staff car park at the rear of the building. The exits will be clearly marked.

Our appointment times are longer to enable PPE to be changed where necessary and for cleaning to take place. Initially we will be seeing two patients every 4 minutes (with the two nurses). This will be reviewed after the first few clinics.

Please try and make sure you are 'vaccine ready' and have your arm bare, ready for the nurse to administer the vaccine.

MOST IMPORTANTLY

PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT IF YOU HAVE ANY SYMPTOMS OF COVID, HAVE BEEN IN CONTACT WITH ANYONE WHO HAS SYMPTOMS, OR HAVE RETURNED FROM TRAVELLING TO A COUNTRY ON THE CURRENT UK QUARANTINE LIST

PLEASE WEAR A FACE COVERING FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT

Thank you

Crown Medical Centre

Partners: Dr L Pendered, Dr A Lambert, Dr T Langston, Dr K Foot & Dr R Moss
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