

Covid and flu vaccination booster campaign

Patient information

BACKGROUND: Current research shows vaccination is the best way to avoid death, hospital admission or viral spread related to covid-19. Immunity levels are thought to reduce from around 6 months from the last vaccine although still retain decent protection. To save lives and protect the NHS, the government have ordered a vaccine booster campaign which has now started to run alongside the annual flu vaccine booster campaign.

WHAT THIS MEANS: This is the largest vaccine campaign the surgery has ever run with nearly 3200 of our patients requiring a booster of both covid and flu vaccines between now and early December.

This means at least 400 extra appointments EVERY WEEK for the next eight weeks.

HOW THIS WILL HAPPEN: We are arranging special booster vaccination clinics while trying to minimise disruption to routine and urgent clinical work over the coming months.

These will run at Churchfield every Saturday (started on 2.10.21) and every Wednesday (from 20.10.21). Each clinic will aim to vaccinate 200 patients with both covid and flu (where needed).

Covid boosters can only be given at least 6 months (or 182 days) AFTER the 2nd vaccine. Patients will therefore be recalled in time order according to when they had their second dose (which usually corresponds to their age or health priority). This will be either by telephone or text message.

Routine and urgent clinical work will be carried out from our branch surgery in Sandsend on Wednesdays whilst the vaccination clinics take place at Sleights. This is to minimise footfall through the surgery and keep everyone safe.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN WHEN YOU ARRIVE FOR YOUR APPOINTMENT:

- There will be a car park marshal who will let you know where to park. If the surgery car park is full, you may need to park on the road. Patients who are unable to walk from the road can be dropped off and will be assisted into the building.
- Patients will be directed to and enter the building from a side or back door (not the main entrance). You will then be collected by a nurse and taken to a room to have your covid vaccination. You will be required to wait in the building for 15 minutes to ensure you do not have any adverse effects from the vaccination.
- If you require a flu vaccination you will be directed to a seating area and called by a second nurse or HCA into another room.
- You will then be directed into the waiting room to complete your waiting time after which you will be able to leave through the main entrance.

We anticipate this system will be quick and safe for patients and will review regularly to ensure we are working as efficiently and safely as we can. Please be patient with us as we all want the best for our patients with many of our staff working additional hours to complete the programme.