



Armed Forces Veteran
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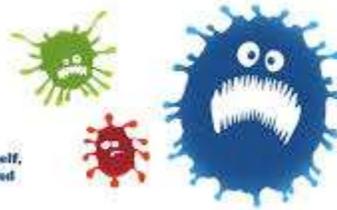
Ash Grove Medical Centre Patient Newsletter

October 2021

Flu Special



**Flu
jab**
Protect yourself,
your family and
colleagues



We are now in the middle of the Flu vaccination season and we felt it might be a good time to explain some of the things that are different this year.

When are our vaccines ordered?



Our flu vaccinations were ordered in September last year. We based our order on the uptake over the previous three years.

We pay for these vaccines and if we don't use the vaccine by the end of February, we have to throw them away.

The flu vaccinations are ordered through two manufactures. Over 65s are through Sequeris who aim to deliver their vaccines by the beginning of September but this year they were unable to do so, at the moment they are being delivered in stages.

The vaccines for under 65s are ordered through Sanofi who send their deliveries in batches between September and November. The batch deliveries are out of our control.

Is it true that healthy 50-64 year olds or Shielding patients should be given a Flu Vaccination?

This year, the Government have again included the ages 50-64. We have kept this cohort in mind when we ordered our vaccines back in September 2020 and upped our allocation due to this.

In the meantime, we first have to vaccinate the patients who are most vulnerable from catching the influenza virus, which include:

- Adults aged 65 and over
- People with some medical conditions including diabetes, heart failure and asthma
- People who were required to shield from Coronavirus and their household
- Pregnant women
- Children aged between two and three
- Health and Social Care Workers

Why are your clinics so late this year?

Our first flu clinic was held the day after we received the vaccines.

In addition, normally at a flu clinic, we vaccinate one patient every minute. This year again, due to Covid, we have to schedule 5 minutes per patient so that we can maintain social distancing, don't have too many patients in the building at any time and to allow time for the staff to clean their rooms and change their PPE.



Why did an 80 year old get their vaccine in September but a 64 year old with diabetes has to wait until November?

This is because there are two different types of vaccine. One for Under 65's and one for Over 65's. They come from different manufacturers and have been delivered at different times.



Why are we only vaccinating children aged two and three?

Children in reception to year 11 will be given the vaccination by the School Nursing Team at school. If your child is absent the day they are done, they will run a catch up programme.

What other vaccinations are available for you?

- If you are aged between 70 and 79, you are also eligible for the Shingles vaccination – please contact the surgery to enquire
- If you are aged over 65 or are an adult or child with certain long term conditions you may be eligible for the Pneumonia vaccination – please contact the surgery to enquire
- Both shingles and pneumonia vaccines can be given at the same time as the flu vaccine. However, if they are given separately you should leave **seven** days between vaccinations

How you can help us when you come for your vaccination

- Remember to arrive as close to your arrival time as possible to help keep numbers of patients in surgery to a minimum
- Remember to wear your face mask
- Remember if you develop any Covid symptoms then do not come into surgery contact us to rearrange your appointment
- Remove your coat and roll up your sleeves ready for your vaccination

What do I need to do if I am eligible for a flu vaccination but I want to decline having it done?

- Phone us on 01977 673141 to decline the flu vaccine
- Email us at wakccg.ashgrove.admin@nhs.net

What if I am due my covid booster vaccine?

- It has recently been announced that you no longer need to wait **seven** days between having the covid vaccine and the flu vaccine
- However, they do recommend waiting **seven** days between the covid vaccine and the shingles vaccine

Finally, thank you for being so patient with us this year. We know it's been confusing and it may feel as though we're being unhelpful by not booking your vaccination or not letting you wait in the waiting room

Although we are open as usual we need to make sure that we don't have too many patients in the waiting room at any time so that we can maintain social distancing.

The Practice is a place where the people who visit are sick, frail or elderly and we must do everything we can to keep you all safe.

Thank you for your understanding.