



**Ash Grove Medical Centre**

**Tel: 01977 673141 – Appointments & Enquiries**

**[www.ashgrovesurgery.co.uk](http://www.ashgrovesurgery.co.uk)**

Welcome to the Covid Vaccine second issue of our Practice Newsletter. In this Newsletter, we aim to provide patients with up to date news, changes to the services we provide and useful information.

### **📌 COVID vaccine update**

We are very proud to be a part of the largest vaccination programme of our time. Our staff have been working tirelessly alongside nine other practices across our district to deliver vaccinations at the Civic Centre in Castleford. Below is a brief overview of where we are up to with the programme.

#### **Home visiting team**

We have a fantastic Home visiting team made up of nursing staff and admin staff from several surgeries that have done a fantastic job at delivering vaccinations to all care homes, learning disability homes and housebound patients.

They have completed all second doses at the care homes and learning disability homes as well as first doses of all housebound patients across Knottingley, Eggborough, Ferrybridge, Pontefract and Castleford. They have started some 2nd doses for housebound patients too. This has been an absolutely huge task to coordinate and we would like to thank them for all their hard work and dedication to ensure these patients are done as quickly as possible.

#### **1<sup>st</sup> Dose Vaccinations**

We have contacted at least on two occasions, all patients in the top nine cohorts for their first vaccine, which are:

1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3. All those 75 years of age and over
4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
5. All those 65 years of age and over
6. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
7. All those 60 years of age and over
8. All those 55 years of age and over
9. All those 50 years of age and over

We have now moved onto the next cohort

10. All those aged 40-49 years of age
11. All those aged 30-39 years of age
12. All those aged 18-29 years of age

We ask that if you wish to decline your vaccination that you let us know by following the link on the text message, by telephone 01977 673141 or via email [Ashgrove.Medicalcentre@nhs.net](mailto:Ashgrove.Medicalcentre@nhs.net) this will ensure that we no longer send you reminder messages and also helps us to drop to the next cohort.

We are now working through those patients who are immunosuppressed to invite their household contacts over 18 years to be invited as per the latest government guidelines.

### **2<sup>nd</sup> dose vaccinations**

We are allocated 2<sup>nd</sup> doses of both Pfizer and AstraZenica based on 1<sup>st</sup> doses given between 10-12 weeks previously.

We have contacted all patients who had their first dose of the Pfizer vaccine on or before the **3<sup>rd</sup> February 2021**, and all first doses of the AstraZenica vaccines given on or before **31<sup>st</sup> January 2021**

We ask that if you've not spoken to a member of staff or received a text message to please get in touch so we can arrange your second vaccine

### **Under 30s AstraZeneca advice**

New guidance has been issued for the use of the Oxford AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine.

This follows further reviews by the independent regulator, the MHRA, and the Commission for Human Medicines, of a very small number of people in the UK who have developed a rare blood-clotting condition since having the Oxford AstraZeneca Covid-19 vaccine.

The MHRA and Joint Committee for Vaccinations and Immunisations have emphasised that the risk of this condition is extremely small and that the benefits of the vaccine outweigh the risks for the vast majority of people. They have recommended that:

- Everyone who has had the AstraZeneca vaccine should still have a second dose of the AstraZeneca vaccine, irrespective of age, unless they suffered any serious side effects after their first vaccination
- People aged 30 and over or who have a health condition that puts them at higher risk of severe Covid-19 disease should still be offered the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine. The benefits in protecting them against the serious consequences of COVID-19 outweigh any risk of this rare condition
- People aged 18-29 who do not have a health condition that puts them at higher risk of severe Covid-19 disease will be offered an alternative Covid-19 vaccine where available. (This has been recommended as a precaution as people under 30 are at less risk from Covid-19 and not because they are considered to be at particular risk of developing the rare blood clot)

- People under 30 can still choose to have the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine if this will mean they can be protected more quickly and they have been made aware of the guidance

For further information please see the information leaflet at [https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/977653/PHE\\_COVID-19\\_AZ\\_vaccination\\_guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/977653/PHE_COVID-19_AZ_vaccination_guide.pdf) (or ask Reception to print you a copy)

### **Further vaccine information**

As with the rest of the country, 1<sup>st</sup> dose vaccines have been slowed down through April. However, we will still be receiving 2nd doses of both Pfizer and AstraZeneca so you will be invited when it's your turn.

Further to the government announcement regarding COVID passports we have no more information on this and as soon as we know anything we will update patients.

### **Moderna Vaccine**

The Moderna vaccine has now been approved for use within the UK. We have not been told so far when our first delivery of the vaccine will be available to us. All staff who are involved with the delivery of vaccines have already done their training for the Moderna vaccine so will be ready when it arrives.

This will be a two dose vaccine, which will be scheduled between 10-12 weeks a part

### **Thank you**

As we mark a year since we had our first suspected COVID-19 patient at the surgery it was a scary realisation that this COVID-19 is real, it's not something we are seeing on the TV there's a possibility it's in Knottingley, in our surgery!

What a year it's been for everyone an emotional rollercoaster with some real lows and some fantastic highs!

This time last year the generosity of our patients was overwhelming whilst we struggled to source PPE to protect our staff, local patients and businesses dropped off essential PPE, scrubs, scrub bags, ear protectors for our masks to name just a few things.

Patients dropped off cakes, treats and even a painting to keep our spirits up! This generosity kept us going at what seemed an impossible time. We could not thank each and every one of you enough!

By the end of March, when a full lockdown was announced we closed our door to patients walking in and turned to a total triage model of care. The resilience of our staff was amazing! They pulled together as the best team Ash Grove has ever seen! Everyone looked after each other no matter what role they had!

We worked through our bank holidays to keep essential services running and keep people out of hospital.

The Thursday night clap for the NHS began, which left us all very emotional. We are just doing our jobs the best way we can we didn't feel as if we were doing anything special!

We reflected on the thanks we were being given and said our own thanks to those who were helping us. Our partners at home who supported us 100% - home schooling our children when we worked long hours. Our children who stayed home not seeing their friends, the teachers who looked after our children who needed to go to school, supermarket workers, delivery drivers, our colleagues in the hospitals, paramedics, pharmacies and mostly our patients who showed us compassion, understanding and patience

As we came in and out of lockdowns and in and out of tiers we adapted to the ever changing new normal. Routine services began to start again alongside the new COVID way of working. PPE and keeping our distance from each other has become normal. We are extremely proud that we've avoided any breakout at the surgery.

For those who have been to the Civic Centre, I think you'll all agree that it has been set up really well and it is run extremely efficiently, everyone who has been to the Civic Centre has thanked the staff working! It's an emotional time receiving that first vaccine the first step on our road to normal! We are so grateful to play our part! It doesn't matter if you're the first patient in or the last patient you'll be greeted with a smile and treated with true compassion. It's a true team effort working with the other local surgeries in Ferrybridge, Pontefract and Castleford to ensure our entire district is kept safe!

To stay up to date with our latest vaccination information please follow our facebook page, this is updated on a regular basis to give you the most up to date information that we have. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who follow us and have left lovely comments regarding our staff and the work we are doing, these words of encouragement are seen by our staff and really do mean a lot to them and makes all the hard work worthwhile. We are pleased that patients are finding the updates both interesting and informative

As we enter our 2nd year of COVID restrictions we would like to say a huge thank you to our staff for everything they do every day! We have an amazing team who look after each other.

And a special thank you to all our patients who continue to show us compassion, support and patience. For every thank you that is said our staff are truly grateful.

We will get out of this together