

Warlingham Green Medical Practice, Chaldon Road and Whyteleafe Surgeries

PPG Newsflash

Covid Vaccination Update

This is a newsflash from your PPG to update you on the surgeries' Vaccination Programme.

The current position is this:

Please do not worry about being missed out for your vaccination. The practices in our vaccine distribution group have robust call and recall processes and are very used to inviting patients for the annual influenza programme and for yearly reviews. There are various ways you will be contacted about the vaccine:

- a) You may get a letter from the Government; or
- b) You might get a text message with a link to book your vaccination appointment; or
- c) You may receive a telephone call from the practice.

You will be invited by the practice where you are registered, **regardless of where you live**, so please do not be concerned about being left out or forgotten.

Our practice staff are working tirelessly with fellow practices in the North Tandridge area to ensure that as many patients are vaccinated as quickly as possible. Our practices can only do this when selected to take a delivery, but once a delivery date is assigned, the practices work flat out to get the appointments booked. Vaccination of all our over 80's in the area has almost been completed already and is starting to move onto the next age group. Meanwhile, our practice requests that patients **do not** call their surgeries to ask for their vaccine. **Patients will be contacted** as soon as it is their turn. The phones are currently overrun with patients calling to check when they will be contacted. This is preventing other calls from sick patients from getting through to the surgeries.

We have been informed that **carers** falling into a different vaccination level will not be vaccinated at the same time as their family member.

Please make every effort to attend for your vaccination appointment when invited. This is vitally important. Appointments will tend to be at fairly short notice, as little notice is given to vaccine distribution centres in respect of delivery dates. If you **really** cannot attend please **do** telephone the practice and let them know and you will be contacted again at a later date to re-book. We hope this addresses patients' concerns that they might be over looked or forgotten. Please bear in mind that over 6.4 million patients nationally have been vaccinated already from the beginning of this month. When you attend your vaccination appointment please wear **a short sleeved shirt or t-shirt** under your coat/jumper as it speeds up the time taken delivering the vaccination to each person.

Please continue to bear with our practices at this incredibly busy and important time as they manage the vaccination appointments in addition to their usual services.

Remember that once vaccinated you will **not** have immunity for several weeks afterwards. More importantly, you can **still transmit the virus** to other non-vaccinated people. As tedious as it is, please wear masks, maintain social distancing and keep washing hands regularly. But good news - **we are getting there!**