

Patient Update

January 2021

Focus: Coronavirus vaccinations

In Havant Borough and neighbouring villages, eleven GP practices (listed below) are working together to vaccinate patients as quickly as they can. We are pleased to share some of the detail and background below, but first...

Important message for patients who had a CORONAVIRUS JAB IN DECEMBER

**Your second vaccination date
IS RESCHEDULED FOR mid-MARCH**

Anyone to whom this applies will be contacted personally as well, but for now, please delete the January vaccination appointment from your diary.

The primary care networks (PCNs) of Havant & Waterlooville, Hayling Island & Emsworth and Strawberry Health (*which also covers some practices in Waterlooville and Havant*) started running vaccination clinics from three 'hubs' – Waterlooville Health Centre, Hayling Health Centre and Emsworth Baptist Church before Christmas.



We needed sites to accommodate a large throughput of patients because, unlike flu jabs, which patients

usually receive from their practices, the new vaccine needs more specialist storage and preparation. It is hoped that as other vaccines

become available, and the expert advice develops, we can extend the number of vaccination sites.

How are appointments made?

Practices are contacting patients, mainly by telephone, to make the vaccination appointments. They can only do this according to strict NHS England guidelines on patient priority and when we have confirmation of vaccine delivery. Patients over 80, of which there are lots in our area, are being invited first, in age order, along with health and care workers for whom protection is vital to maintain local services.



Care and nursing home residents are now included in this first group as the equipment to transport the vaccine safely has been received.

Once patients in these priority groups have been given their first dose, practices will start contacting patients in the next priority group – and so on down the age profile.

One dose or two, and what interval?

Both the vaccines currently licenced for use in the UK (Pfizer and Astra Zeneca) require **two doses** to maximise the protection against Coronavirus that

Havant Borough and neighbouring GP practices

[Bosmere Medical Practice](#) - [Denmead Practice](#) - [The Elms Practice](#) - [Emsworth Surgery](#) - [Homewell Practice](#) - [Oaks Healthcare](#) - [Park Lane Medical Practice](#) - [Staunton Surgery](#) - [The Village Surgery](#) - [Vine Medical Group](#) - [Waterside Medical Practice](#)

Havant Borough and neighbouring GP practices

they provide. The Chief Medical Officer, supported by Government scientists, advised on 1 January 2021 that, due to the intensity of the current infection 'spike', the interval between doses should be 12 weeks rather than the three weeks originally advised for the Pfizer vaccine, to enable more people to have a first dose sooner.

This means that everyone who had a vaccination at one of our hubs in December, and who was told to return three weeks later for their second jab, will now have this second appointment postponed until early/mid-March.



The Clinical Directors of the three PCNs are committed to protecting our patient population by delivering Coronavirus vaccinations

as quickly as it is possible to do so safely.

They understand the debate and confusion that the changes in national guidance have created, but they back the decision to prioritise the delivery of a first dose to as many people as possible, whilst ensuring that planning for the second dose for all patients is also in hand.

Everyone who has had their initial vaccination will be contacted to advise them not to attend for their second dose in January, but we are urging anyone reading this newsletter to share this information within their community, to help us with this important communication.

What about care home residents?

We have 64 nursing and residential care homes in our area, supporting some 1600 of our most vulnerable patients. We made a start, on Hayling and in Emsworth, just after Christmas, as soon as we received permission and the additional kit required to do this safely. We are expecting the next delivery of vaccine soon and we have 'roving

teams' ready to go into more care settings from Thursday.

As with all patient communication about the vaccine, practices will contact care home management to make the necessary arrangements; please do not call practices.



And finally...

We are hugely proud of, and extremely grateful to, staff from all the practices and from the PCNs, to the retired GPs and nurses, to colleagues from both the South Hampshire Primary Care Alliance and the local Clinical Commissioning Group, and to the many, many amazing volunteers from across the area who have stepped up, often at extremely short notice, and in parallel to their 'day job' to make these clinics possible.

We are also indebted to our wonderful patients – and their families and friends in many cases - who have attended clinics on time and in a spirit of great positivity and optimism.

We apologise sincerely for the changing plans due to fast-paced national decisions and we hope everyone understands that they will be contacted for their vaccination appointment in priority order.

HANDS... FACE... SPACE

Please, please continue to follow all national and local guidance for keeping safe and well.

Havant Borough and neighbouring GP practices

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