**BOOK YOUR FLU VACCINATION!**

**Do not attend the practice if you have symptoms of Covid-19 (cough, temperature or loss/altered sense of smell or taste) or have been in contact with anyone with these symptoms**

Due to Covid-19, flu clinics will run slightly differently this year. Please read the Q&As below for guidance.

**Q&As**

**Who will be offered a flu vaccine this year?**

Those on the ‘Clinically At Risk’ list\* and those patients aged over 65 years of age, as well as patients who have been shielded and their families.

**How do I get a flu vaccine if I am in the 50-64 age range and am not in a ‘Clinically At Risk’ category?**

The government have not yet advised how patients aged 50-64 who are not already in a ‘Clinically At Risk’ group will be vaccinated and we will **NOT** be taking bookings for this age group unless you are in one of the at risk groups. If we are advised to vaccinate this age group, you will receive a text later on in the year. We kindly ask that you do **NOT** telephone reception as this will prevent others from getting through.

**How do I book an appointment?**

If you have a mobile number listed on your record, you will receive a text offering you a flu vaccine. Please phone reception to book your appointment. **Please note due to flu vaccine delivery dates which are outside our control, we will be inviting patients in stages. Please do not worry if you have not received an invitation.**

**What time should I arrive at the surgery?**

We are reducing the numbers of patients we have in the surgery at any one time. You will be given a timeslot to arrive at the surgery. We ask that you wait in the car park until you are either telephoned to come into the practice or if you do not have a mobile phone, please come to the car park entrance and ring the bell to inform reception you are here, we will come and get you.

**What should I do when I arrive at the surgery?**

Wait in your car or outside the surgery door (entrance opposite Well’s Pharmacy).

**What should I wear?**

Wear a top/coat that is loose-fitting so you can easily remove this to reveal your arm. Please wear a face covering when attending the practice.

**Who can come with me?**

You must come alone unless you need a carer to assist you. Couples or families that have booked appointments at the same time can of course come together but may be called in separately.

**How do I exit the building after my flu vaccination has been given to me?**

Please exit via the door you entered. Please leave the surgery immediately after vaccination.

**What do I do if I have symptoms of Covid-19 or I am unable to make my appointment?**

Please ring us so that we can cancel your appointment and give it to someone else who may desperately need vaccinating. We will have lots of flu clinics available so there will be plenty of opportunity to re-book your appointment at a later date.

\*Please see list below for those eligible for flu vaccinations:

* chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis (Note to patients with Asthma - you will only be invited if you have continuous steroid therapy or hospital admissions
* chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
* chronic kidney disease at stage three, four or five
* chronic liver disease
* chronic neurological disease, such as Parkinson’s disease or motor neurone disease,
* learning disability
* diabetes
* splenic dysfunction or asplenia
* a weakened immune system due to disease (such as HIV/AIDS) or treatment (such as cancer treatment)
* morbidly obese (defined as BMI of 40 and above)
* people aged 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2021)
* all pregnant women (including those women who become pregnant during the flu season)
* household contacts of those on the NHS Shielded Patient List, or of immunocompromised individuals, specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation with a shielded patient on most days over the winter and therefore for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable
* carers that are in receipt of a carer’s allowance, or who are the main carer of an older or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill

**Thank you for your kind support during flu season!**