

## Claremont & Holyport Practice

### **Working in partnership to ensure the safe delivery of the flu vaccine this year**

Working in partnership with others, we're working hard to ensure the safe delivery of the flu vaccination for our patients this year.

The list of those eligible for the vaccination free on the NHS has expanded to include the following:-

- Household contacts of those on the NHS Shielded Patient List. Specifically individuals who expect to share living accommodation with a shielded person on most days over the winter and therefore for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable
- Children of school Year 7 age in secondary schools (those aged 11 on 31 August 2020)
- Health and social care workers employed through Direct Payment (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants, to deliver domiciliary care to patients and service users

Additionally, flu vaccinations might be offered under the NHS towards the end of the year to individuals aged between 50-64. However, it is important for us to stress that this will be subject to vaccine supply nationally and priority will be given to those in 'at risk' groups first. For a full list of all those eligible, please scroll down.

We are currently exploring options on how best we deliver the flu vaccine to you as it's very unlikely that we will be able to offer mass walk-in flu clinics this year due to the continuing threat of Covid-19.

Some of the ways currently being discussed include offering booked appointments only on site in line with the relevant government advice at the time; potential drive-throughs at key open-spaced venues; home visits to those elderly and vulnerable who are assessed as needing their vaccination in their home; and holding small drop in sessions at local venues. However, this is all subject to further discussion and confirmation, with public and staff safety remaining at the centre of all decisions made.

As soon as details are confirmed, they will be publicised using an array of methods including our practice website so please check regularly. Please only call us regarding your flu vaccination if you are unable to access details on line.

Since March this year, all health and care services have had to adapt the way in which they work in light of coronavirus and public safety. Changes seen have included a huge increase in the amount of telephone and online appointments and consultations with staff having to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) in face-

to-face appointments. With Covid-19 still circulating, many of these changes will still be in place as services resume.

This year more than ever, it is really important that people get their flu jab to help us help you stay well this winter. This is particularly important for those in high risk groups as flu can cause severe complications.

Flu spreads from person to person, even amongst those not showing any symptoms. Whilst the threat may be invisible, the protection against it is clear.

Below is a full list of all those eligible for the free flu vaccination on the NHS this year (2020/2021):

- all children aged two to eleven (but not twelve years or older) on 31 August 2020
- people aged 65 years or over (including those becoming age 65 years by 31 March 2021)
- those aged from six months to less than 65 years of age, in a clinical risk group such as those with:
  - chronic (long-term) respiratory disease, such as severe asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD) or bronchitis 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)
  - 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
  - people living in long-stay residential care homes or other long-stay care facilities where rapid spread is likely to follow introduction of infection and cause high morbidity and mortality. This does not include, for instance, prisons, young offender institutions, university halls of residence, or boarding schools (except where children are of primary school age or secondary school Year 7).

- those who 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
- health and social care staff, employed by a registered residential care/nursing home or registered domiciliary care provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza.
- health and care staff, employed by a voluntary managed hospice provider, who are directly involved in the care of vulnerable patients/clients who are at increased risk from exposure to influenza.
- health and social care workers employed through Direct Payments (personal budgets) and/or Personal Health Budgets, such as Personal Assistants, to deliver domiciliary care to patients and service users.

Further updates will follow.

For more information on flu, please click [here](#).

Updated: 24<sup>th</sup> August 2020