

## Covid Vaccine Update

We are pleased to inform our patients that our Covid Vaccination Programme will commence this Thursday 14th January 2021. Our vaccination programme at present is being delivered with several other local practices from Hinckley Leisure Centre in Argents Mead, Hinckley but we are hopeful that this may be delivered from our surgery in coming months. Appointments will be offered at Hinckley Leisure Centre on both on weekdays and weekends.

Patients will be called in priority groups defined by NHS England. Our surgery staff will be contacting eligible patients, either by telephone or by letter, to invite them to attend for their vaccination. We apologise if you may be contacted at short notice but this will be due to the timing of our vaccine delivery.

When attending your appointment, please wear loose clothing that can be removed easily and a face mask. Please do not attend if you have Covid symptoms or feel unwell.

Patients attending Hinckley Leisure Centre will be assisted and signposted by marshalls. Vaccine delivery will be undertaken by our own surgery staff or by volunteers who have been approved to work with us.

You will be asked to sign a consent form on arrival before being passed to our clinicians. Clinicians will ask several screening questions before administering your vaccine. Once you have received your vaccine, you will be asked to wait for 15 minutes before being allowed to leave. We will then contact you approximately 10 weeks later to arrange an appointment for your second vaccination.

Recent NHS letters from mass vaccination sites such as Birmingham are an alternate option to being vaccinated through your GP surgery, not instead of. These have been sent out nationally not by local NHS services such as your GP practice or the Leicester Hospitals.



Burbage Surgery is working hard to ensure that all patients of 80 years of age and over and care home patients are offered a vaccination locally before moving on to other age groups. We will continue to contact patients directly as they become eligible for an appointment.

You do not have to travel to Birmingham if you do not want to; the mass vaccination centres are designed for patients living within 30-45 minutes of a centre at most so we would recommend that you are vaccinated close to home during the pandemic to reduce the risk of catching the virus by using public transport. You should also be aware you have to have both vaccinations at the same venue so your local surgery will not be able to offer patients the second vaccination if you have the first elsewhere.

The demand on our telephones is very high at the present so it would be helpful if patients avoid calling the surgery to ask for a Covid 19 vaccine appointment. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

## Surgery update

HBS Pharmacy has now moved into their new area and our builders are due back on site at the end of January to complete the remaining work.

Whilst we continue to work towards restoration of our services, restrictions remain in place to limit the number of patients entering our surgery premises. Access is by appointment only and all patients are required to wear a face covering when attending surgery. Please do not enter our surgery in order to make an appointment or request a prescription. Please return home and telephone reception. Requests for prescriptions should be made on line wherever possible or by posting your repeat slip in the prescription box at the front of the surgery. Our telephones are busier than usual but we will answer your call as soon as we are able. Wolvey, Sapcote, Sharnford Surgeries remain closed temporarily due to Covid-19. We continue to deliver medication for our dispensing patients.

## Staffing changes

Dr Rachel Walker has now returned from maternity leave and Dr Ghazanfar Zaidi has moved on to the next part of his training.

## Retirement of PPG Members

We are sorry to announce that 2 of our key PPG members have stepped down from the group. John Moore, PPG Chair, and Mike Hudson, PPG Vice Chair, have announced their retirement. All PPG members were extremely sorry when John and Mike told them they had decided to step down.

John was a founder member of the group 15 years ago and for most of that time it's chairman. Secretary Paul Stewart said "Under his leadership, the group thrived and raised thousands of pounds for items to help patients –

including defibrillators, blood pressure machines for the waiting rooms and chairs with high seats for patients with mobility difficulties. He leaves the patient group with a strong balance sheet to support further patient benefits and a structure to guide the group to even greater success"

Mike joined the group later and he too played a key part in the organisation of PPG fundraising activities, particularly PPG Golf Days.

John and Mike will be greatly missed by the PPG. The Doctors would like to thank both members for the outstanding support and commitment they have given to the surgery during their time in office. We sincerely wish them all the very best for the future.

Some other members of the PPG have also indicated that they may not continue to be part of the group and will not stand for re-election at the AGM in April 2020. If you would be interested in joining our PPG in order to work with the surgery to develop and improve services, please contact Dr Philip Thomason or Wendy Shaw, Practice Manager for further information.

## Coronavirus update

Our surgery website is regularly updated to provide information to patients regarding latest advice regarding Coronavirus. Do not leave home if you or someone you live with has any of the following:

- a high temperature
- a new, continuous cough
- a loss of, or change to, your sense of smell or taste. Please also see [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

