

## COVID VACCINATIONS Q AND A as at 15<sup>th</sup> February 2021

### On the website

#### COVID Vaccine updated 15th February 2021

- **Aged 65 - 69 with NO long term health condition (Cohort 5)** You will shortly receive a letter from the national booking service. Please follow the instructions in the letter or click on the link below to book an appointment at a mass vaccination centre or at a community pharmacy setting. You can book an appointment at Taunton Racecourse, Bath & West Showground, Ashton Gate in Bristol or Locking Pharmacy in Weston Super Mare.

#### Cohort 5 Book your COVID vaccination here

- **Aged 65 - 69 WITH a long term health condition (Cohort 6)** You have a choice. As above, you will shortly receive a letter from the national booking service. However, if you do not wish or are unable to attend one of the mass vaccination centres or a community pharmacy, you can wait to be invited to the local vaccination centre. However, if you are able to travel to one of the mass vaccination centres, please do so as this will free up more appointments locally for those who are less able to travel. We have in excess of 10,000 people across the five surgeries with a long term health condition.
- **Aged 16 - 64 WITH a long term health condition (Cohort 6)** You will be contacted and invited to attend the local vaccination centre. Please see the criteria for cohort 6 below:
  - Chronic respiratory disease \*
  - Chronic heart disease and vascular disease
  - Chronic kidney disease
  - Chronic liver disease
  - Chronic neurological disease, including severe or profound learning disability
  - Diabetes mellitus
  - Immunosuppression
  - Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen
  - Morbid obesity
  - Severe mental illness
  - Younger adults in long-stay in-patient, nursing and residential care settings
  - Adult carers
    - Those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person, someone who has a severe mental illness or whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.

\* Asthma

An individual with a more severe case of asthma may have been included in the Clinically Extremely Vulnerable group, in which case they will be vaccinated in group 4.

People with asthma which requires continuous or repeated use of systemic steroids or with previous exacerbations requiring hospital admission, will be vaccinated in priority group 6.

This will include:

- anyone who has ever had an emergency asthma admission or;
- those who have an asthma diagnosis and have had 3 prescriptions for oral steroids over a 3-month period (each prescription must fall within separate individual month windows), as an indication of repeated or continuous oral steroids.

**Please note that you are not able to have your vaccination at either Axbridge or Wedmore surgeries. You must attend one of the vaccination centres unless you are housebound.**

For all those under 65 without a long term condition, we are grateful for your continued patience. You will be contacted when it is your turn. Please do not ring the surgery about COVID vaccinations as we are unable to tell you any more than this at present.

## **Q & A**

**I have had a letter asking me to go to Ashton Gate/Taunton, but I cannot get there. When I phoned their booking line they did not have Berrow on their system, but I want to book there.**

You can wait and you will be invited to Berrow but we do not know when this will be. The Ashton Gate/Taunton booking centre does not have access to these appointments.

**I think I may have missed a phone call inviting me for a vaccine**

See above criteria and reassure patient that they will be contacted again. We are constantly providing information to the vaccination centre on those eligible who have not yet been vaccinated.

**If I am given an appointment I have no means of getting to the vaccination centre**

Please advise to take the appointment they are offered and then give them one of the transport booking numbers below that can help them get there.

**I have been given an appointment but it is a different time to my husband and we want to travel together**

We believe that you can both attend together but we are not 100% sure. If it is at Berrow, you can definitely attend together. We are not sure about the mass vaccination sites.

**I have surgery booked and the hospital has asked for me to have the vaccine as a priority before I go in**

Patients are being called in order of cohort priority as above and we have no authority to call anyone other than those in the eligible groups. This is national guidance and is not open for individual flexibility.

### **I was given a vaccination appointment at Berrow, but I need to cancel**

Reassure patient they will be invited again as surgeries are regularly checking who is eligible but has not had the vaccination. Unfortunately we are unable to let them know but rest assured the vaccine will not be wasted and they will be called again.

### **I had a telephone call to invite me for a vaccination, but I didn't take the appointment, but I now want to be offered one again**

Check patient has not been coded as "declined". If they have, let Janet or Celia know and they will delete the code. Reassure patient that they will be contacted again. We are constantly providing information to the vaccination centre on those eligible who have not yet been vaccinated.

### **I am undergoing, or about to undergo, chemotherapy and so need to have my vaccination as priority**

They should have already been called but if this is a recent development, let Janet or Celia know and they will pass on the information to the vaccination centre.

### **I am away from home at the moment and want to know if I can have the vaccine where I am now?**

Advise patient that they should register at the surgery near where they are living so that they are included in any searches calling patients in for their vaccinations. If they are clinically vulnerable they may need to check with the surgery that this shows on their records. If notes have not gone through electronically the new surgery may need to ask for a summary to be emailed. When they return back to our area they can just re-register with us. If they register as a temporary they may not be included.

### **I have an allergy to xyz/carry an epipen – can I have the vaccine?**

We suggest that you take the appointment that you have been offered – all patients are assessed by a clinician before they administer the vaccine so you can discuss any allergy concerns then.

### **I have had COVID, but I want to have the jab**

Post COVID there has to be a gap of 28 days from date of positive COVID test. Then you can have the vaccination.

### **I want to wait and have the jab when it is being offered at my GP surgery**

You cannot have the vaccination at Axbridge or Wedmore surgeries.

### **I work as a physiotherapist/osteopath/optician/funeral director etc and I would like to have the vaccination**

Please ask them to email [vaccination.mph@somersetft.nhs.uk](mailto:vaccination.mph@somersetft.nhs.uk)

**I do not want to have the COVID vaccination at all**

Please code the patient *2019-ncov immunisation course declined*

**Transport help**

Axbridge surgery patients is Scott McIntosh H 01934713529,  
email [mcintosh394@btinternet.com](mailto:mcintosh394@btinternet.com)

Wedmore surgery patients is Peter Wright H 01934713226,  
email [peterwright999@hotmail.com](mailto:peterwright999@hotmail.com)

Isle of Wedmore Good Neighbours – 01934 806299