

## **INFORMATION WITH REGARD TO THE COVID VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

We are delighted to be able to continue offering vaccinations against COVID-19 and are all working really hard to deliver this safely and efficiently.

Chew Medical Practice are part of the 'Three Valley Health Primary Care Network' (PCN). This consists of 9 practices across the Chew, Somer and Cam valleys. The local GP led vaccination centres across England are all being organised and coordinated by local PCN's. We have been working with the practices from our PCN to deliver the COVID vaccinations at the Somer Centre in Midsomer Norton.

As soon as we have a confirmed delivery from NHS England, all practices within the PCN are working hard to book these appointments. Typically, we get 4-7 days notices before a delivery arrives and all vaccinations are given within 3-5 days of the delivery date.

Vaccinations are also being offered to our patients at the mass vaccination centres. Locally this is at Ashton Gate football stadium in Bristol and at Bath racecourse. You can only book these centres if you have received a letter from NHS England. These letters are also being sent out based on the JCVI priorities.

**WHEN IT IS YOUR TURN** you will be contacted by us at the Practice, we will phone or text you using a new text messaging service that allows you to book these appointments remotely. Please note that this text message will be signed from Chew Medical Practice and we would never ask for any personal or bank details. The text message will invite you to accept and book the invitation, or decline it. If you already have an appointment elsewhere please decline it so we can code this on your records and not call/text you again.

We would be very grateful if everyone who does have a mobile phone could utilise this service as it will save a huge amount of administration time calling people. If you don't have a mobile phone we will continue to telephone you. Please do not contact us asking when your vaccination will be.

You may also receive an appointment from government appointment automated system for the mass vaccination centre (e.g. Bristol) - if you do not already have an appointment allocated locally and you are able to get to the mass vaccination centre, please accept this appointment as it will help us to deliver more vaccinations in total.

If you are generally housebound but physically able to get to the local vaccination centre you are advised to do so as this will be the quickest way to get your vaccine.

If you are completely housebound and physically unable to get to the centre then our community partners Virgin Care are organising a home vaccination service - this will be a limited resource. You will need to wait for an appointment.

If you are a frontline health and social care worker you should be contacted by your employer and allocated an appointment at the hospital hub site.

## UPDATE 16.4.2021

**Please note there are 2 separate parts to this message – please read both**

### Immunocompromised patients

All adult (aged 16+) household contacts of patients who are immunocompromised are now eligible for a COVID vaccination. Household contacts are defined as those who 'expect to share living accommodation on most days....and therefore, for whom continuing close contact is unavoidable.' Members of 'bubbles' that do not live with an immunosuppressed person for the majority of the week are excluded from the definition.

The JCVI (Joint Committee of Vaccination and Immunisation) has defined those who are severely immunocompromised as

- Patients undergoing chemotherapy leading to immunosuppression
- Patients undergoing radical radiotherapy
- Anyone with a history of a haematological cancer, including leukaemia, lymphoma and myeloma
- Those with Systemic lupus erythematosus (SLE), Rheumatoid arthritis and psoriasis who require long term immunosuppressive treatments
- Solid organ transplant recipient, bone marrow or stem cell transplant recipients
- HIV infection at all stages
- Multiple myeloma or genetic disorders affecting the immune system
- Individuals who are receiving immunosuppressive or immunomodulating biological therapy, including, but not limited to, anti TNF, alemtuzumab, ofatumumab, rituximab
- Individuals receiving protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
- Individuals treated with steroid sparing agents such as cyclophosphamide and mycophenolate mofetil
- Individuals treated with systemic steroids, for more than a month at a dose equivalent to prednisolone 20mg or higher

If you are a Chew Medical Practice patient and are immunocompromised please email the name of any adult member of your household that has not yet received a vaccine that wishes to have one to [bswccg.receptionchew@nhs.net](mailto:bswccg.receptionchew@nhs.net) We can then confirm your medical records reflects you are immunocompromised and add an eligibility code to the record of the household contacts that you have identified. When we receive our next delivery of 'first dose vaccine' we will then contact them to arrange an appointment.

### Cohorts 10-12

We were delighted to hear that everyone in cohorts 1-9 had been offered a vaccine by the middle of April. These cohorts account for 99% of deaths from COVID so it is fantastic that these cohorts have been vaccinated in high numbers. The mass

vaccination centres have now opened up appointments to some of cohort 10 (age group 45-49). At the local vaccination centre, run by the GP surgeries in Midsomer Norton, we have gone back to cohorts 1-4 in order to administer second vaccinations. Giving second vaccinations for cohorts 1-9 will take us to the end of June.

As a PCN (group of 9 practices covering the Chew, Somer and Cam valleys) we were asked if we could also do first vaccinations for cohort 10-12. Given the pressure to keep the practices running to as near normal as possible, and the need to do second vaccinations for cohorts 1-9, the PCN came to the difficult decision that, regrettably, we were not able to commit to also vaccinating cohorts 10-12. This was the same decision made by all 6 PCN's across BANES. We acknowledge that this will be disappointing for some of our patients. However, we are geographically fortunate that we have 3 mass vaccination centres in close proximity. These are at Ashton Gate stadium in Bristol, Bath and West Show ground in Shepton Mallet and Bath Racecourse.

If you are in cohort 10-12, when your age group is called forward for vaccination, please book this via the Government website or by calling 119. The surgery will not be able to book these appointments for you and we would politely ask that you don't call us asking when you might be able to get vaccinated.

[Book a coronavirus vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

We have been delighted by the extremely high uptake of the vaccine so far and we would strongly encourage anyone who is eligible, and yet to be vaccinated, to come forward.

With best wishes

The Chew Medical Practice team

### **JCV list of priorities:-**

- 1 Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- 2 All those 80 years of age and over Frontline health and social care workers
- 3 All those 75 years of age and over
- 4 All those 70 years of age and over Clinically extremely vulnerable individuals\*
- 5 All those 65 years of age and over
- 6 All individuals aged 16 years\*\* to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality\*\*\*
- 7 All those 60 years of age and over
- 8 All those 55 years of age and over
- 9 All those 50 years of age and over

\* This advice on vaccination does not include all pregnant women or those under the age of 16 years (see above)

\*\* The Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine is authorised in those aged 16 years and over. The AstraZeneca vaccine is only authorised for use in those aged 18 years of age and over

\*\*\* This also includes those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.

Please visit the Banes, Swindon and Wiltshire CCG link below for FAQ (Frequently asked questions) on the covid-19 vaccination programme:

<https://www.bswccg.nhs.uk/latest-covid-19-updates>