

Firstly on behalf of all of the doctors and nurses at Living Well Partnership, we would like to thank you for your support for the partnership and our NHS during the pandemic. Your warm wishes and messages of support have kept us going during our busiest months ever. We are now excited to be well underway with our Covid-19 vaccination campaign. Trials have shown the vaccines to be more than 90% effective in preventing Covid-19 and essential to reducing the spread of infection and saving lives. This document explains more about what you need to do to receive the vaccine.

### **Which vaccine will I be having?**

There are two vaccines currently approved by the UK government, one made by Pfizer and the other made by AstraZeneca, also known as the Oxford vaccine. Practices are receiving deliveries of both vaccines but only one type of vaccine is administered during each clinic. You will be notified at the point of booking your appointment which vaccine you will receive.

### **What are the criteria for vaccination?**

We are following government guidance regarding prioritisation and the order in which patients are vaccinated.

### **Are there any reasons why I can't have the vaccine?**

When the doctor/nurse visits you they will ask a number of questions to check your eligibility for the vaccine. Currently these include:

1. Whether you have had any other vaccines in the last 7 days (not flu).
2. Whether you feel unwell with a fever or Covid-19 symptoms.
3. Whether you have had a serious allergic reaction to another vaccine in the past.
4. Whether you have been on a clinical trial for a Covid-19 vaccine.

Allergies to medicines and foods/nuts are not a problem and you can proceed with your vaccination without concern.

### **Can I have my flu jab at the same time?**

Yes you can. If you were not vaccinated for the flu during our first wave of vaccinations we can vaccinate you when we visit you for your Covid-19 vaccination. Please ask the doctor or nurse vaccinating you at the time of your appointment; you do not need to book this with the surgery.

### **I am housebound, why are you offering me an appointment at the surgery?**

We recognise that some housebound patients have friends and family to help them get to planned appointments. We want to make sure that if you can make it that you are invited. *If you are unable to leave your home under any circumstances then there will be a visiting service for you, so don't worry if you cannot make it to the surgery.*

### **Why am I being offered a vaccine appointment at a different surgery from my local surgery?**

NHS England is delivering the vaccine to six GP practices across Southampton. The majority of Living Well Patients will be asked to travel to our nominated vaccination site at Ladies Walk Surgery. This site is central for all our patients and can easily be transformed into a vaccination clinic. We have run successful mass flu clinics and several Covid vaccine clinics from this site. Of the two approved vaccines, only the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine can be transported to other sites and this is not always logistically easy. Therefore, whilst we aim to offer opportunities for vaccination at other Living Well Partnership sites on different days and times over the coming months, it may be that an appointment is available sooner at a different site.

**What if I want to know more about the vaccine?**

You can find out more about the vaccine, its benefits and possible side effects at [www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/) or by reading the leaflet available at <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-guide-for-older-adults/covid-19-vaccination-guide-for-older-adults>.

**I am clinically extremely vulnerable, should I attend my appointment at the surgery?**

Yes absolutely. We want you to get protected as soon as possible. Please be reassured we will be taking full precautions with PPE and social distancing. If you have any concerns on the day please speak to a member of staff.

**What is the process for patients unable to consent to the vaccination?**

If your eligible relative or friend does not have the ability to consent to a vaccination, say due to Dementia or a Learning Disability, please let a member of staff know when they arrive for their vaccination. We will have special forms for carers/next of kin to sign.

**What if I don't want the vaccination?**

Please complete an eConsult via our website to inform us if you do not wish to have the vaccine. We will update our records and remove you from our follow up communications. Please note it may take 10 days for this to be fully processed and you may receive some messages in that time which you can ignore.

**How will it work on the day?**

- Do not attend if you have any Covid-19 symptoms. We will contact you to arrange another appointment.
- Please wear a face covering and maintain social distancing. There may be a short wait outside for you to receive your vaccination so please dress appropriately for the weather.
- Arrive at the location at the appointment time given to you. There may be a short wait so please dress appropriately for the weather.
- Complete the consent form which will be provided to you on arrival. If you already have a consent form, please bring it with you.
- Decide if you want your vaccination in your right or left arm and ensure quick and easy access for an injection into the shoulder muscle, just like the annual flu jab.
- Receive your vaccination from one of our trained clinicians.
- After your vaccination there will be a waiting area. If you have the Pfizer vaccine you will need to wait for here for 15 minutes after vaccination for observation by medical staff in case you feel unwell. This is a national guideline. Whichever vaccine you have, you must not drive within 15 minutes of vaccination.
- Alert a member of staff if you feel unwell at any time.

**Is there car parking available?**

There are car parks available at all surgery sites. In the event that there is no space in the car park on arrival for your appointment, there is also plenty of parking in the local streets near the practice.

**Will the Surgery be open as usual on the day?**

We continue to offer day to day GP services at all Living Well Partnership sites as usual, Monday to Friday. The practice phone lines will remain open, eConsults responded to and prescriptions available as usual. Our GPs and nurses are busier than ever consulting with patients.

**Will I have to wait at the surgery after having my vaccine?**

There is a nationwide precaution to wait for a 15 minute observation period after receiving the Pfizer vaccine to ensure that medical staff are on hand in case you feel unwell. This guideline is not required if you receive the Oxford/AstraZeneca vaccine although you must not drive for 15 minutes after vaccination.

**Can I bring someone along to help me?**

If you need help, by all means bring a friend, relative or carer to help you. Our staff are also on hand to help you. That said, wherever possible we would prefer it if patients went in for their vaccination individually. This helps maintain a smooth flow of patients through the surgery, facilitates safe social distancing and avoids queues building up.

**What side effects can I expect?**

Most people do not have any side effects, but a sore arm and general aches or headaches are commonly reported. Further information is in the enclosed leaflet. Additional information can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-vaccination-what-to-expect-after-vaccination/what-to-expect-after-your-covid-19-vaccination>.

**When will I have my second jab?**

Second doses will be arranged three months after the first dose. This is in line with the latest government guidelines. We will arrange this with you nearer the time.

**How can I update my contact details?**

Please post a letter through the surgery letter box with your name, address, date of birth and up to date contact details. Please include a mobile number as this will allow us to send you a text message with essential updates and appointment reminders. You can also update us via eConsult on our website.

**Have you written to all practice patients?**

No. There are strict rules about which patients are to be vaccinated first, starting with older patients, those living in care homes and front line health and social care staff. We will be inviting patients in turn for their vaccination based on government guidance.

*On behalf of all the Partners at LWP we would like to thank our patients for their support and patience during these extraordinary times.*