

# KNEBORTH AND MARYMEAD MEDICAL PRACTICE

## PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP NEWSLETTER

September 2021

### **Covid-19 Booster Vaccinations**

Phase 3 of the Covid vaccination programme, the administration of booster doses, will start in earnest at the beginning of October. As previously, the programme will be coordinated by the Primary Care Network on behalf of the four Practices within the network. All the sessions will be held on Saturdays and are expected to continue to the end of the year, and possibly beyond. This time, the venue will be the Shephall Health Centre, Ridlins Way, Stevenage, SG2 9QZ, instead of the Roebuck Surgery which was used for the earlier vaccination programme.

The grouping of patients eligible for the booster vaccination has been broken down into two Stages.

#### Stage 1:

- all adults aged 70 years and over
- patients living in residential/care homes
- adults who are aged 16 and over and are immunocompromised
- adults who are aged 16 and over who are considered to be clinically extremely vulnerable
- frontline health and social care workers

#### Stage 2:

- all adults aged 50 and over
- adults aged 16 to 49 who are in an influenza or Covid-19 "at risk" group
- adult household contacts of immunosuppressed patients

The vaccine will be the Pfizer one and it can be safely given even if you have previously had the Astra Zeneca vaccine. The Practice is, however, seeking clarification for those patients who have been advised not to have the Pfizer vaccine.

Please do not contact the Practice regarding your vaccination as they are planning to be in contact with patients directly. They are hoping to utilise some new system functionality allowing them to send a text message containing a link to enable patients to book their appointment using a smart-phone. If you do not have a smart-phone, the Practice will contact you by letter instead. For communication via letter, patients will receive a pre-booked appointment, which they will be able to reschedule if not convenient.

## Influenza Vaccinations

After a slight delivery issue, the Practice will now be able to start this year's flu vaccination programme for adults from early October. As in the previous two or three years, patients aged 50 and over, as well as "at risk" patients will be eligible for a free vaccination. Patients in the "at risk" group include, among others, those with chronic long term conditions, such as diabetes, COPD, asthma, heart disease, chronic kidney disease, liver disease or those who are immunosuppressed.

Vaccination sessions are planned to be held at both the Marymead and Knebworth surgeries and there will be pre-booked and walk-in clinics available; further details will be made available in the near future.

Fortunately, supplies of the nasal spray formulation for young children arrived as scheduled and almost all of the 2 – 3 year-olds have already received their dose of the flu vaccine.

## Volunteer Marshals

The Covid-19 booster vaccination sessions are due to start at the Shephall Health Centre in early October. These will be on Saturdays and will continue to the end of the year, and possibly beyond. These sessions require the services of volunteer marshals to ensure a safe and efficient flow of patients into the vaccination centre and, as you may be aware, our Patient Participation Group was very prominent in providing marshalling for the sessions earlier this year at the Roebuck Surgery.

The booster sessions will require an increased number of marshals and so if you feel that you would like to volunteer and help in this project, that would be greatly appreciated. If so, please do not hesitate to contact Graham Fothergill ([gafothergill@gmail.com](mailto:gafothergill@gmail.com)) for further details.

## Signage

It should now be easier for Knebworth patients, especially those unused to the area, and for visitors to find the surgery on St Martin's Road. There is now a new "fingerpost" sign attached to the lamp post at the junction of London Road and St Martin's Road.



This has been provided by the Hertfordshire County Council and our thanks for this go to Gary Henning, the Assistant Highways Manager for North Hertfordshire, as well as to Councillor Richard Thake who kindly covered the cost from his Highways Locality budget.

### **Forthcoming PPG Meetings**

The next PPG Meeting is at 7.00 pm on Tuesday, 28th September, which will again take place via Zoom. The main speaker at this Meeting will be Dan Taylor, the Care Co-ordinator for the Primary Care Network. If you would like to join this online event, please notify one of the PPG Officers (contact details below) so that you can receive the Zoom joining details.

The October Meeting will be on Tuesday, the 19th, when we hope that our main speaker will be one of the Admiral Nurses to give a short presentation on her work in providing support for families affected by dementia.

### **PPG Contacts**

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**Produced by The Knebworth and Marymead Patient Participation Group**