**ABINGDON MEDICAL PRACTICE**



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[www.abingdonmedical.co.uk](http://www.abingdonmedical.co.uk)

**NEWSLETTER - SPRING 2021**

***COVID 19 VACCINATION PROGRAMME***

The Abingdon Medical Practice is working with 8 other local practices in the Brompton Health Primary Care Network to get patients vaccinated as quickly and safely as possible.

You will be contacted by the practice - please do not call the practice about appointment availability as it makes it more difficult for other callers to get through to us.

Patients are asked to attend one of the three vaccination centres: Violet Melchett Centre Flood Street in Chelsea, St Charles Integrated Care Centre Exmoor Street and Earls Court Health and Wellbeing Centre Hogarth Road.

The Pfizer and AstraZeneca COVID vaccinations are 2 injections, 10-12 weeks apart. Please remember that it is important to have both injections.

The vaccination cannot prevent an infection that you have already been exposed to, your body takes several weeks to build up immunity after vaccination

If you are unwell at the time you are invited for a vaccination, your appointment may be postponed until you are better.

***COVID 19 VACCINE ELIGIBILITY***

The practice has been contacting patients in the following order:

1. Residents in care homes for older adults and their carers

2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers

3. All those 75 years of age and over

4. All those 70 years of age and over and 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. 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

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 Carers (aged 18 – 64) paid and unpaid please see category 6.

Some of our patients are receiving letters from the NHS inviting them to book online at: www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination and you are welcome to do this.

***COVID 19 VACCINE***

For the vast majority of people the vaccine is safe and effective. There are very few people who cannot have the vaccine such as pregnant patients, patients who have had severe allergic reaction to a vaccine, patients under 16.

***ZERO TOLERANCE***

There has been a recent increase in the amount of verbal abuse our reception staff are receiving. We understand it can be frustrating waiting in the telephone queuing system to be answered or that sometimes we are unable to book your Covid vaccine any sooner, however it is unacceptable to abuse our staff. The practice operates a zero tolerance policy to any abuse towards its staff, doctors or other patients.

***APPOINTMENTS AND PRESCRIPTIONS***

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, how you contact the practice continues to be different. This is to limit face-to-face contact whenever possible and help stop the spread of coronavirus.

The Abingdon Medical Practice is open and if you need to see your GP, please ring us on 020 7795 8470. You can also call NHS 111.

**Please do not come to the surgery unless you have an appointment.**

Appointments are being delivered face-to-face, online and over the telephone. If you are asked to come into the surgery for a face-to-face appointment, please remember to wear a face covering. Measures are in place to keep you safe from infection during your visit to the surgery.

Blood test, baby immunisation, injection, cervical screening, ECG and dressings appointments are in place as usual.

***SPRING BANK HOLIDAYS***

The Surgery will be closed for Spring Bank Holidays on:

\*Friday 2nd April 2021 (Good Friday)

\*Monday 5th April 2021 (Easter Monday)

\*Monday 3rd May 2021 (Bank Holiday Monday)

\*Monday 31st May 2021 (Bank Holiday Monday)

***PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP***

The PPG is a great way to understand more about what goes on in your practice. We do three interactive sessions a year where you can understand a little more about the services that the Abingdon Medical Practice offers our patients. For the safety of our patients and staff during the current pandemic the meetings are taking place online. The group is open to all patients; please contact reception if you are interested in joining.

