**COVID-19 VACCINATIONS FOR PATIENTS AGED 80 AND OVER**

We are pleased to advise that the first phase of our COVID-19 vaccination programme commences this week. Patients 80 years and over are invited to book an appointment.

**Our vaccination** **centre is at: Headcorn Aerodrome, Headcorn, Kent, TN27 9HX**

**Vaccinations clinics are being run by The Ridge PCN**

Eligible patients will be contacted by text and email. We will be aiming to contact those for whom we don’t have a mobile number or email address by phone. **BUT THIS WILL TAKE TIME SO PLEASE CAN WE ASK THAT YOU DO ALL THAT YOU CAN TO SPREAD THE WORD TO YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBOURS IN THIS AGE GROUP.**

Appointments can be booked via EMIS Patient Access or by calling the surgery’s dedicated mobile no during normal surgery hours:

**07753356592 (please do not leave a message)**

Please avoid calling the main surgery appointment lines.

This first offer of appointments is limited by the number of vaccines which are available, so please book as soon as possible to secure your appointment time, but rest assured that more clinics will be added very soon if you are not able to book your jab this week.

**IMPORTANT INFORMATION:** When you attend for your appointment at **Headcorn Aerodrome** the only information you will need to give is your name, date of birth and postcode but you will need to **take some form of ID and you must wear a mask**.

**We do not currently have information about the vaccine roll-out for the other cohorts of patients. Please continue to visit our website which we will update when this becomes available.**

If you have questions about any aspect of the Covid-19 vaccination programme please visit the NHS website:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine/>

**Frequently asked Questions**

**Who is eligible?** At the moment only patients in Group 2 (all those 80 or over). But other groups will be called in the order advised by the JCVI over the coming weeks

**Can I be vaccinated somewhere closer to home?** Not at the moment - we don’t have further information on other vaccination sites so we can’t give any information on when this might happen.

**Can I choose to have the Oxford or Pfizer vaccination?** No - we understand that both vaccines will be available but we can’t specify which vaccine you will receive. This will be subject to what is available and other criteria which the vaccinators will check when you attend.

**Will I get my second jab?** Yes – this will be 10 weeks from the date of your first jab.

**I really don’t want to have the Covid-19 jab – can I decline?** Yes, but we strongly recommend that all patients accept the offer and attend at the earliest opportunity. We will ask a doctor or nurse to call you to discuss your decision.

**I have allergies – can I take the vaccine?** Yes, but please make sure you advise the staff at Headcorn on arrival for your appointment – especially if you have severe allergies, have a history of anaphylaxis or carry an epi-pen.

**I can’t get to Headcorn, what can I do?** Please make every effort to arrange for somebody to take you as this is the earliest opportunity we can offer. If you struggle to get in and out of the car the vaccinators may be able to come to the car and vaccinate – speak to the receptionist on arrival.

**I am housebound – when will I get my vaccination?** We understand that arrangements are being put in place for housebound patients but we do not yet have information. You will be contacted by us or the agency offering the vaccines when this is finalised.

**I can’t get somebody to take me on those dates, can I go another time?** Yes, but we do not yet know when this will be.

**I don’t have anybody who can book me in online, can you do it for me?** We can, in exceptional circumstances, do this for patients but try to get them to ask friends or family to organise so that we are not involved too much.

Please refer to the Ridge PCN website for further information

<https://theridgepcn.co.uk/about/covid_vaccinations_.php>