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Dear Patients,

In line with NHS England guidance we will be prioritising the most vulnerable patients for our 2020 Flu Campaign.

### **Patients aged 65 and over**

We will be starting our Flu Campaign earlier than usual this year with appointments available for patients aged 65 and over from Monday 21<sup>st</sup> September.

### **Patients in an 'at risk' category aged 64 years and under**

Patients in an 'at risk' category aged 64 years and under will have appointments available from Monday 5<sup>th</sup> October.

## **People who should have a flu vaccine**

The injected flu vaccine is offered free of charge on the NHS to people who are at risk.

This is to help protect them against catching flu and developing serious complications.

You should have the flu vaccine if you:

- are 65 years old or over
- are pregnant
- have certain medical conditions
- are living in a long-stay residential care home or another long-stay care facility
- receive a carer's allowance, or you're the main carer for an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if you fall ill
- live with someone who's at high risk of coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list) or you expect to be with them on most days over winter

## **Social Distancing**

In view of the need to maintain social distancing we will not be carrying out large clinics on a Saturday as we have done for the last few years. We will instead be providing flu clinics every day of the week in Tarporley with a range of times throughout the day so that we can accommodate everyone as quickly as possible. We will only have one clinician offering a flu clinic at any one time with longer appointments to allow for the clinician to clean down in between patients.

## **On arrival....**

All patients arriving for their flu vaccination appointment will be asked to wait OUTSIDE in the car park until their appointment time. At the appropriate appointment time please follow the signs in the car park to the back door (to the left of the Marquee) where you will be greeted by the clinician and taken into room 6 for your flu vaccination. Any patients with poor mobility can be seen in their car or the Marquee, please inform the receptionist when booking the appointment. Patients attending for a flu vaccination must not come into the waiting room. Patients must attend wearing a face covering.

## **Pre-school Children**

The practice will only provide pre-school Children with the Nasal flu vaccinations. These appointments will be carried out by the Practice Nurses in their routine clinics not the flu clinics.

## **Eligibility**

All patients eligible for a Flu Vaccination with a mobile phone number recorded on their patient record will be sent a text reminder in the next two weeks to book an appointment.

## **Patients aged 50 - 64**

Patients aged 50 and over may be able to have a flu vaccination later in the year, NHS England currently state; "Once vaccination of the most 'at-risk' groups is well underway, the department will work with clinicians to decide when to open the programme to invite people aged 50 to 64, with further details to be announced. The NHS will contact people directly, including information about where to go to get the vaccine"

In the meantime please do not contact the practice for an appointment if you are over 50 but are not in an 'at risk' group as you will not be able to book an appointment.

## **Patient Access**

If you use Patient Access we encourage you to book your appointment online to reduce the number of phone calls coming into the practice at this busy time. <https://www.patientaccess.com/>

**We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued co-operation with our new ways of working as we adapt and make the necessary changes required to deliver a safe service during these uncertain times.**

Kind regards  
Drs Adey & Dancy  
15th September 2020

Please note that this is a no-reply email account that is not monitored. If you wish to contact the practice by email please use [cheshireccg.tarporleydoctors@nhs.net](mailto:cheshireccg.tarporleydoctors@nhs.net)