



## **Voyager Family Health Coronavirus vaccination update**

1<sup>st</sup> February 2021

Many questions are being asked about coronavirus vaccinations in the local area. This information newsletter has been put together to help answer some of your questions.

Any changes in Government guidance, venue or delivery of the vaccinations will be included in future issues of this newsletter.

Please do not contact the surgery to ask for a vaccination, you will be invited when you are eligible.

Understandably many people are keen to get vaccinated and some people are frustrated not to have been invited before friends or family, and we urge you to please be patient. Guidance on the Government roll out of the vaccine is listed at the end of this newsletter.

Almost all of our patients will receive a text from Voyager Family Health or from the national booking system. This will include all the information you will need to book your appointment. Our Patient Services Team are contacting all patients who are unable to receive text messages or do not respond to the initial text reminder.

Our Practice Nurses and Health Care Assistants are contacting those patients who are housebound.

The Farnborough Covid Vaccination Centre is based at the former Southwood Practice site, situated by the Morrison's supermarket on Links Way, Farnborough, GU14 0NA. There is ample free parking. Disabled parking is situated behind the supermarket and is signposted (the Crab & Anchor pub).

Once you receive your invitation please act on it straight away and ensure you can attend when you have booked your appointment.

If you do not have transport to get you to the Farnborough Covid Vaccination Centre, Rushmoor Borough Council have arranged a special transport service. This is available from Monday to Friday 09.30 - 12:30 ONLY. You can contact them via 01252 398451. This is a chargeable service.

Please do not attend for your vaccination if you have symptoms of coronavirus or are awaiting the outcome of a coronavirus test. You will be required to wear a mask unless you are clinically exempt.

Once you arrive at the Farnborough Covid Vaccination Centre you will be met by marshalls who will direct you on where to go. Please ensure you stay 2 metres away from the person in front if there is a queue. The marshalls will guide you into the building and will ask you to confirm your details and your vaccination appointment time. It is very important that you do not attend too early or late for your appointment.

You will be directed to a vaccination room where a Doctor or Nurse will administer the vaccination. There will be an administrator in the room who will record your details on to a computer and who will give you a card with the vaccination information. Once you have had your vaccination you will be guided to a waiting room where you must wait for 15 minutes.

You will not be able to choose which vaccine you have. Both Pfizer and the Oxford/Astra Zenica vaccines are being supplied to the centre. These vaccines have been approved for use following the MHRA's testing on safety and efficacy and both vaccines are highly effective and protect from coronavirus.

Both Voyager Family Heath and North East Hampshire and Farnham CCG will continue to review options for the residents of Farnborough and further updates will be shared as soon as they become available.

The Government has compiled a list of 'At Risk Priority Groups'. These are:

1. Residents in care homes for older adults, and staff who work at care homes for older adults
2. All those aged 80 years old or older and frontline health workers and social care workers.
3. All those aged 75 years old or older
4. All those aged 70 years old or older, and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals who are over 18 years (you will have already been notified if you are clinically vulnerable)
5. All those aged 65 years old and older
6. All adults aged 16 – 65 years old in an at-risk group
7. All those aged 60 years old and older
8. All those aged 55 years old and older
9. All those aged 50 years old and older
10. Rest of the population

If you are classed as in an 'at risk' category you will have one of the following conditions:

- A blood cancer e.g. leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma
- Diabetes
- Dementia
- A heart problem
- A chest complaint, breathing difficulties, such as severe asthma, bronchitis, COPD.
- Kidney disease
- Liver disease
- Lowered Immunity due to a disease or treatment, for example, HIV, steroid medication, chemotherapy or radiotherapy
- Rheumatoid arthritis, lupus or psoriasis
- Have had an organ transplant
- Have had a stroke or transient ischemic attack
- A neurological or muscle wasting condition
- A severe or profound learning disability
- A problem with your spleen for example sickle cell disease or you have had your spleen removed
- Are seriously overweight (BMI over 40 and above)
- Are severely mentally ill