

COVID-19 Vaccination Update

Our health and care colleagues have achieved an important milestone in Somerset, by offering a COVID-19 vaccination to people in the first four priority groups as identified by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

The vaccination programme is now expanding to include priority groups 5 and 6. This includes people aged 65 and over (Group 5) and people who are aged 16 to 64 with underlying health conditions, which may put them at higher risk of serious disease from COVID-19 (group 6).

Many of you will have already received or will receive letters regarding the mass vaccination centre in Taunton, inviting you to book an appointment there by going online - <http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination>, or by calling 119. If however you find travelling to Taunton difficult our local West Somerset PCN (Primary Care Network) site at Minehead Hospital continues to hold vaccination clinics. If you would rather have your vaccination in Minehead, the West Somerset COVID Booking Team will be in touch with you to make you an appointment; you do not need to contact the surgery to let us know your preference.

Group 5 patients aged 65-69 with no underlying health conditions will be contacted by letter as above. Our primary care network COVID vaccination booking team are now contacting patients in group 6 who have underlying health issues as specified by the Joint Committee for Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). Contact will be made by text message or by telephone. As they will contact you directly to arrange a vaccination appointment there is no need to contact the practice.

To facilitate vaccination appointment booking a new text message system has been implemented to enable patients to book into the Minehead Hospital site via a text message invitation. If you have a smartphone the text message will contain a link to book your appointment at the Minehead Hospital site. The text message and booking link will list the surgery name and it will require confirmation of your date of birth but we will never ask for bank details. We will continue to telephone patients without a mobile number listed on their medical record so please do not call the surgery.

We understand that everyone is anxious to know when they might get their vaccination and want to be vaccinated as quickly as possible. You can help us to run the vaccination programme as efficiently as possible by following the guidance above. Please don't contact the surgery to ask about your vaccination.

Nationally all vaccination sites follow the JCVI guidelines regarding the patient groups we vaccinate in order that the role out is fair and equitable across the country. All the local practices in West Somerset have been happy to support the role out of vaccinations and those of you who have attended for your vaccination will have seen some familiar faces amongst the team at the hospital.

For more information on eligibility, visit the JCVI website. Or you can find out more information on the Somerset CCG website - www.somersetccg.nhs.uk

If you are aged 65 and over, you can now book your COVID-19 vaccination appointment.

There's no need to contact your GP surgery. Use the National Booking Service online, or call 119



Practice Nurse Update

We are pleased to announce that we have recently appointed two new practice nurses who will be starting with us in the coming weeks.

Rachel Coe has been a registered nurse since 2005. Once she qualified she starting working at Musgrove Park Hospital on the Coronary Care Unit as a Senior Staff Nurse then a Chest Pain Specialist Nurse. Rachel then moved to the research department as a Clinical Research Nurse. In 2018 Rachel moved to Eastleigh Care Home as their clinical lead. Rachel has decided to move into Primary Care to broaden her experience and brings a wealth of knowledge and skills.

Janet Costello began her nurse training when she left school in the Queen Alexandra's Royal Army Nursing Corps, however due to starting a family Janet never completed her training. Janet spent a number of years raising her family and working for various companies including 15 years in family support.

Nursing remained her passion however, and in 2015 Janet resumed her nurse training and qualified in 2017. Since then Janet has been working as a Staff Nurse in the Haematology Unit at Musgrove Park Hospital. Janet has decided to move into Primary Care as this was always her main interest during her training and she completed some of her training working at Harley House Surgery so feels familiar with our working environment.

We are looking forward to welcoming Rachel and Janet to our team.

Practice Development News

We are continuing to work on the development of the Harley House site and the eventual closure of the Irnham Lodge site and would like to thank everyone who has given us feedback via either our patient group or via the survey, link below. You are still able to provide feedback via either route and if you have any questions or concerns please do not hesitate to contact Janet Hewlett, our practice manager, who is managing the surgery development.

We are continuing to work with Somerset CCG (Clinical Commissioning Group) and are very grateful for their support during the development process.

We are now in the final stages of arranging the building work to start. We are working with a team of builders who are experienced in building doctors surgeries, so they are aware of the need to keep disruption during the build for people visiting the surgery to a minimum. We continue to have the use of both the Irnham Lodge and Harley House sites during the build, so please make sure you are aware of which site you need to attend when you book your appointment.

For any patients who would like to give feedback regarding our move to a single site, we have created a short online survey which can be accessed below or by scanning the QR code -

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/S62ZYC9>

