Dear Patients,

First of all we would like to say how grateful we are to our patients, volunteers and our team who have supported us through 2020. Our patients have been incredible in adapting to the new world and our new ways of working due to Covid 19, so thank you.

Our team have been amazing and have worked tirelessly through the whole pandemic. Working above and beyond, sacrificing bank holidays, Easter, evenings and weekends as well as cancelling time off, so a huge thank you to our practice team.

We would like to take this opportunity to update you on the Covid Vaccination programme.

**The Covid 19 vaccination programme** is very fast moving and I’m sure I don’t need to tell you how challenging it has been to plan.

Due to the logistics of the vaccine the programme can only be delivered at scale. This is due to the volume the vaccine arrives in (975 doses at one time), the notice you are given for the delivery date (24 hours’ notice) and the shelf life of the vaccine 3-5 days.

The only way we can ensure minimal waste and maximum uptake is to work together with our local practices.

We are very lucky in Newton Abbot to have 7 practices (including Buckland) that have a proven track record of working very well together. The group of practices are now working collaboratively to run this as a centralised programme in a venue that will be local to all with good access, parking and links to public transport.

The start date of this service is very dependent on production and delivery of the vaccine and at the moment that is still unknown, but all of our plans are underway to be ready to start vaccinating when our vaccines arrive.

The nature of the vaccine and extent of the vaccination programme will mean that it will last for many months. It is inevitable that along with the ongoing impact of staff self-isolation, management of Covid in the community and this additional workload it will cause some disruption to our usual day to day services, both clinical and administrative. Whilst we will do everything we can to mitigate this we ask that you bear with us over the coming weeks and months.

Moving forward we will be contacting patients as and when we are able to offer them the vaccine. The timelines will depend on eligibility, clinical capacity and access to the vaccine. Below is the current priority list, identified by the government, which we will be following. Please do not contact the surgery to request a vaccination or query when you will become eligible. We will contact you to book your vaccine; this could be at short notice due to short notice deliveries but please understand this is outside of our control.

1 - Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers

2 - All those aged 80 and over, as well as frontline health and social care workers

3 - All those aged 75 and over

4 - All those aged 70 and over, as well as clinically extremely vulnerable individuals

5 - All those aged 65 and over

6 -All individuals aged 16-64 with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality

7 - All those aged 60 and over

8 - All those aged 55 and over

9 - All those aged 50 and over

We are very excited to be part of delivering the vaccination programme and we hope as everyone does this will help us all to get some sense of normality back into our lives and for the country.

We will of course keep you up to date with further progress.

**On behalf of the whole team we would like to wish you all very a happy new year.**

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