

Covid Vaccination Programme Update: 08-03-21

For Elm Tree Surgery patients their Covid vaccinations now, and in the future, are likely to continue to be offered at the STEAM Museum in Swindon.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who are you vaccinating at the moment?

We are vaccinating patients in line with the guidance issued by the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI). They have defined cohorts of patients to be vaccinated in order as follows:

COHORTS

- 1 Residential Care home patients
- 2a Patients aged 80+
- 2b Health and social care workers
- 3 Patients aged 75-79y
- 4a Age 70-74y
- 4b Clinically extremely vulnerable patients (CEV). (These patients will have received shielding letters from the government)
- 5 Patients aged 65-69y
- 6 Patients aged 16-64 with specific underlying health conditions
- 7 Patients aged 60-64y
- 8 Patients aged 55-59
- 9 Patients aged 50-54y

We are awaiting the cohort breakdown from JCVI for our patients aged 18-49 years of age.

We have already invited Cohorts 1-6 and started to invite Cohort 7.

If you believe you should be in Cohort 1-6 and haven't yet received an invitation please contact the surgery on 01793 782207 so we can check. We are struggling to reach some patients because, for example, the telephone number(s) we have in a patient's record are incorrect (if you change your phone number you must remember to let us know) or we leave a message which does not elicit a response.

How will I be contacted to book my appointment?

At the moment there are two ways:

1. A text or phone call from Elm Tree Surgery inviting you to book an appointment at STEAM in Swindon
2. A letter from the NHS inviting you to book an appointment via the central reservation booking service. You will be offered an appointment at a mass vaccination centre.

You are free to choose either option. If you receive your vaccination at a mass vaccination centre your medical record is automatically updated so you don't need to call us to let us know however please be aware the Elm Tree Surgery do not receive notification that you have booked an appointment via the central reservation booking service.

When will I get my first vaccination?

The NHS has issued strict rules that we must follow the JCVI advice with respect to cohorts when offering Covid vaccinations. As soon as we are allocated vaccine we send out invites to those patients in the relevant cohort. Sometimes we receive quite short notice that we will be allocated vaccine which means most invitations will happen about a week - although sometimes less- before the vaccination date. We want to vaccinate as many people as quickly as possible and are using vaccine

as quickly as it comes to us. Hence we are unable to give ideas of time frames of when particular cohorts will be contacted to book their vaccination.

Why has my neighbour who is younger than me had a vaccination?

Unfortunately, we cannot comment on another patient's healthcare! There may be reasons that you are unaware of that mean your neighbour receives a vaccination before you.

When will I get my SECOND vaccine?

If you had your vaccine provided at the STEAM museum you will be offered the same type of vaccine within 12 weeks of your first dose. We wish we could provide a date for your second vaccination when we book your first but we have to wait until the NHS tells us we have an allocation of vaccine. However the NHS has confirmed that they have reserved sufficient vaccine to ensure that those patients who receive their first dose will receive their second dose within the 12 week window.

Will I have a choice over type of vaccine?

No, the NHS is very clear this is not something anyone should be doing. Only patients with a significant risk of anaphylaxis, or teenagers between the ages of 16-17yrs with underlying health conditions may be recommended to have the Pfizer-Biontech vaccine.

I had my vaccine done elsewhere - can I get my second dose at STEAM?

Unfortunately not. The responsibility for delivering the second vaccine lies with the vaccination centre that provided the first dose. This is because the NHS allocates vaccine for second doses based on the first doses administered at a particular place.

If I wait will you be able to give the vaccine actually at Elm Tree Surgery?

No. The NHS has been clear that they do not see a way in which we would be able to offer the vaccine out of Elm Tree Surgery. Do not wait! If you are offered the vaccine we strongly recommend you get it as soon as it is offered.

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