



We are fast approaching flu vaccination season and I want to take this opportunity to remind everyone who is eligible to call us to make an appointment for your annual NHS flu jab.

Flu vaccinations are currently available to all patients aged 65 and over and those under 65 with chronic health conditions. At the time of writing this Newsletter we are still awaiting further guidance on vaccinations for those patients in the 50-64 age group and we will update you once we receive further advice

Although I cannot give you exact dates as I write this newsletter, the Flu Clinics will start in October and we will be holding Saturday flu clinics as usual as well as some weekday clinics. We will of course continue to provide vaccinations opportunistically during normal routine appointments to eligible patients, so there is no need to book a separate flu appointment if you are already seeing a doctor or nurse for an appointment in October.

Flu is an unpredictable virus that can cause mild or unpleasant illness in most people. BUT, it can cause severe illness and even death among vulnerable groups including older people, pregnant women and people with an underlying health condition. If you are not sure if you are eligible, please give us a call. We are unable to provide private vaccinations, but many local pharmacies do.

By having your flu jab, you are not only helping yourself, but you are also helping to protect the wider population from this nasty virus which can easily spread to vulnerable people who are much more at risk from complications.

In the same way as last year, there is a different vaccine for patients aged 65 and over, compared to eligible patients under the age of 65.

Call 01206 250691 NOW to book your appointment.

Telephone Appointments

To assist our Doctors and Nurses can I please ask that if you have a telephone consultation booked, you ensure that you are available on the contact number you have provided us with at the time agreed to take the call. Our clinicians are finding that they often ring patients for their telephone consultations and are unable to get an answer.

Patient Participation Group

At the time of writing the Newsletter there isn't a Patient Participation Group meeting planned in September. If this situation changes then PPG members will be informed by email and we will also advertise this on the Surgery website.

**Sue Mitson
Operations Manager**