



## BRADFORD ON AVON & MELKSHAM HEALTH PARTNERSHIP

**LETTER UPDATED 05 JANUARY 2021**

Dear Patient,

**Routine Care:** Please be advised that **our services remain open** despite the move into lockdown measures announced by the Government on 04/01/2021. We continue to offer an initial telephone or video consultation followed by a face to face appointment if deemed appropriate for your care by the Clinician. All routine Nursing procedures are offered as a face to face appointment. Do not delay contacting the Practice either via the [Doctorlink service](#) or by phone.

**Shielding:** The lack of notice for this lockdown period means that we have not yet received updated government advice regarding patients who need to shield. Please be patient and allow 48 hrs for this advice to cascade down from NHS England. If you previously shielded and your circumstances have not changed you should assume you need to shield once again with immediate effect, unless instructed otherwise by a medical professional. Shielding should not prevent you from attending medical appointments including your Covid-19 Vaccination and routine care e.g. Blood tests and Leg Dressings. Please do not delay your appointments. If your circumstances have changed since the last lockdown and you are unsure if you need to shield, please contact us on 01225 866611.

**Covid-19 Vaccinations:** Bradford on Avon & Melksham Health Partnership are working with Spa Medical Centre and Giffords Surgery to deliver Covid-19 vaccinations to our over 80 year old patients, frontline health workers and care home residents & staff.

We have worked swiftly to mobilise an appropriate central venue which met NHS England criteria and are proud with the vaccination progress that we have made to date, especially given the challenging circumstances. We wish to thank our dedicated teams and amazing volunteers, with special thanks to the Bradford on Avon Emergency Volunteers who have provided outstanding marshalling at the vaccination site.

**Vaccination Priority Groups:** If you are over 80 or a Healthcare Professional but have not received a vaccine invitation yet, please be reassured that we will contact you either by telephone, text or letter, as soon as you have been allocated a vaccine. Please do not contact the Surgery as we need to keep our phone lines free for routine and urgent care.

If you would like to find out which priority you are in **please [click here.](#)**

- The approval of the Oxford/Astra-Zeneca vaccine provides a major boost to our plans to offer protection to our patients and we await further operational details from NHS England to enable us to start administering this vaccine.
- The new guidance from the JCVI on the period between doses also means that we will be to get the maximum benefit for the most people in the shortest possible time and will help save lives.
- We do not have any spare vaccines available and have no control over the delivery dates or quantity of vaccines supplied by the NHS.
- The large increase in Covid cases hospitals are seeing and the emergence of a new variant of the virus also shows that we cannot let our guard down now and **even those who have received a vaccine still need to follow social distancing guidance.**

**Flu vaccinations: *Still Available!!***

All patients over the age of 50 or normally eligible for a flu vaccination

- **Please contact us today to book an appointment**
- *There must be at least 7 days between having the flu vaccine and the covid-19 vaccine.*

For further information on the covid-19 vaccination programme please visit the [government website](#).

**Please continue to abide by all the social distancing and hand hygiene guidance, which will save lives.**

Thank you for your patience.

Practice Manager

Bradford on Avon & Melksham Health Partnership

