



# DEVON SQUARE SURGERY

**January Newsletter 2021 - Covid News**

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## **Thank you to everyone!**

We are very grateful to all our patients who have supported us in 2020. It hasn't been an easy time for any of us to adapt to the changes that have been forced upon us due to Covid 19, so thank you!

In this newsletter, we wanted to give you a bit more information on the progress of the Covid vaccination programme in Teignbridge. The whole process is very fast moving and difficult to plan due to the constraints in getting the vaccines into the arms of our patients!

## **The vaccination**

Currently we have access to two vaccines in the UK (with a third on its way), the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine and the Oxford University/Astra-Zeneca vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine needs to be kept at -70°C from the manufacturer to local delivery and has a limited shelf life. This means that as a locality, we need to have the facilities to maintain the vaccine's optimal temperature. The AstraZeneca vaccine should be easier to distribute because it has a longer shelf life and can be stored more easily.

Which vaccine we receive depends on availability, so we need to be prepared to receive either vaccine.

## **Joining forces**

In the Newton Abbot area, there are seven GP practices which have always worked well together. All seven have now agreed and organised a centralised programme to create a Covid vaccination centre at Sherborne House in Newton Abbot town centre. By joining forces, we can avoid any wastage of the vaccine and ensure that we get maximum uptake of the stored vaccines.

## **Starting dates**

Great news! We have now received the date of our first delivery of vaccine, Thursday 14th January, with the vaccinations starting on Friday 15th January. We will contact you directly to make your appointment, so please ensure we have your correct contact details on our records.

Everyone will be contacted in order according to the Government's Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) and there will not be any 'queue jumping'. As a surgery, we will have to report and record every vaccination given and it is not possible to deviate from the rules set out to us.

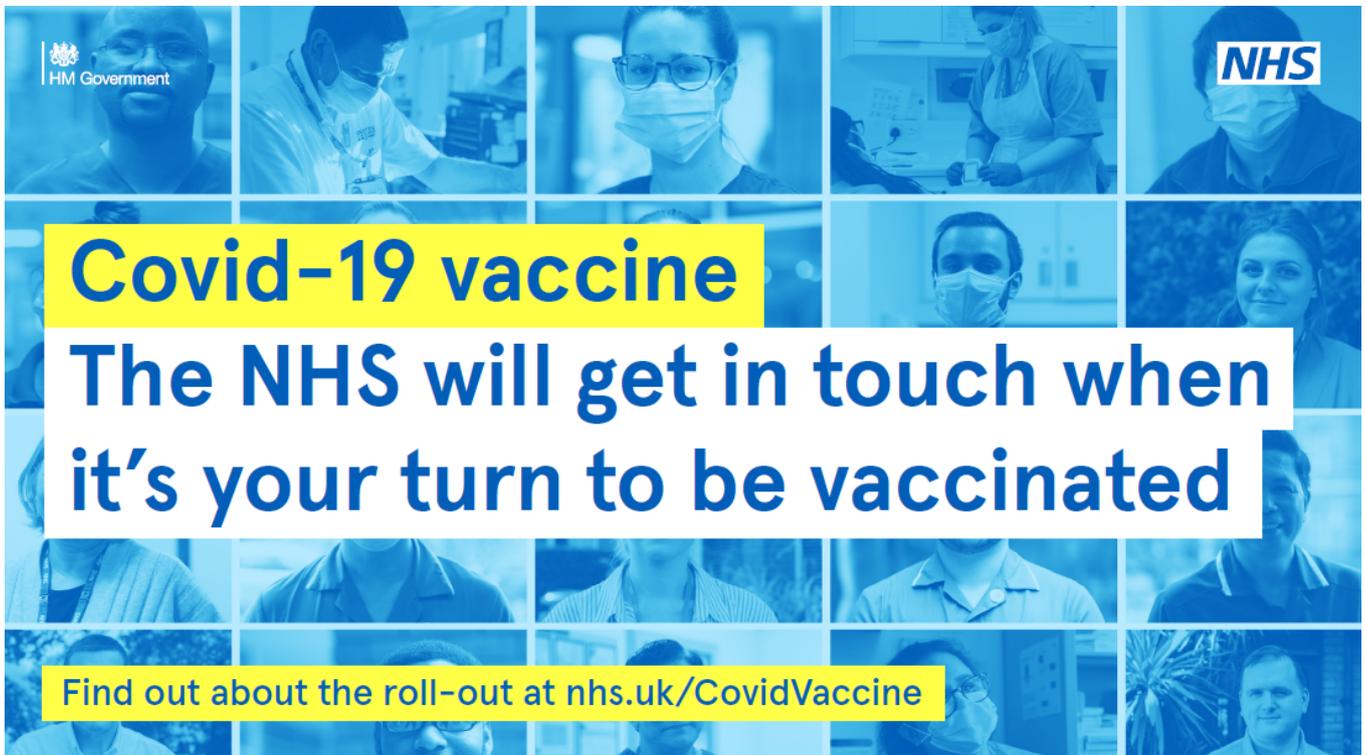
## Short notice

We will contact you to book your vaccination as soon as we can. This could mean that your appointment could be at short notice because we ourselves will receive short notice that a vaccine delivery is on its way. We are really keen to get the vaccination programme up and running, in the hope that we can help to get some sense of normality back for everyone. This is a new process for us all, and a very large undertaking, so please bear with us whilst we deal with the huge demand upon us.

## If you would like anymore information

The Government's regulatory bodies have published an enormous amount of vaccine data, available for anyone to download and read in depth. The levels of transparency about the approvals process is intended to confirm to everyone that the approved vaccines are safe and effective, and will provide an eventual route out of the pandemic. For further information visit:

[www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency](http://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/medicines-and-healthcare-products-regulatory-agency)



**HM Government**

**NHS**

**Covid-19 vaccine**

**The NHS will get in touch when it's your turn to be vaccinated**

**Find out about the roll-out at [nhs.uk/CovidVaccine](https://nhs.uk/CovidVaccine)**