

## **CHEADLE PRIMARY CARE NETWORK**

**Cheadle Medical Practice**

**Heald Green Health Centre 1**

**Gatley Medical Centre**

**Heald Green Health Centre 2**

**29<sup>th</sup> December 2020**



Dear Patient,

### **COVID-19 Vaccination Programme**

As part of the NHS COVID vaccine programme, our four GP practices in Cheadle Primary Care Network, namely Cheadle Medical Practice, Gatley Medical Centre and Heald Green Health Centre 1 & Heald Green Health Centre 2, are working closely together to deliver this vaccine to our patients.

Together, our practices will be running vaccine clinics at **Heald Green Village Hall** and there is an immense amount of work going on at present, to set this up.

We hope to start our clinics as soon as we get a delivery of vaccines (hopefully in the next 2 weeks). We are expecting one week's notice of our first delivery. From this point we have less than four days to then deliver all the doses.

To help us with this huge logistical challenge, we would be grateful if you could kindly consider the following:

- This is the largest vaccination programme ever seen and so it is likely that capacity at all our GP practices will be reduced as staff are diverted towards the vaccination programme. Please be assured that our practices intend to remain open as usual for urgent issues but your understanding and support regarding our ability to deal with non-urgent medical issues is much appreciated.
- The government has laid out **strict** criteria for the priority groups and the order in which people will become eligible for the vaccine; this is primarily based on age. We will be starting by inviting patients over 80 years, then working through the groups as laid out by the government.
- For more information about the vaccine go to [www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination](http://www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination). The Stockport NHS phone line for any queries about the vaccine is **0161 426 9910** and email [stoccg.pxenquiries@nhs.net](mailto:stoccg.pxenquiries@nhs.net).
- Please ensure we have an up to date mobile number that we can contact you on (or a relative/next of kin). Text messages are the quickest way to send information out in such a tight timescale. When we are in a position to invite you, you will receive a text with some further information about the vaccine and another text with a secure link to book your appointment. If you do not have a mobile, we will call you at home to arrange an appointment.
- You will be asked to book two appointments for your vaccines, at least 21 days apart. It is very important that you have both vaccinations to ensure you are protected.
- We are advised that the vaccine cannot be transported outside of our designated clinic site once it is delivered. Therefore, we are currently unable to vaccinate patients in their own home. This will mean a delay in receiving the vaccine for those who are housebound until a solution is found. We would therefore ask, if you are at all able, to try and get down to the Village Hall. We will send details of support to help you get to the clinic if needed.
- Please note that appointments can only be made for those who receive an invite or who are contacted directly by the surgery.

We feel excited and privileged to be in a position to support our local community in starting to emerge from this pandemic.

Thank you for your ongoing support, understanding and patience during these difficult times.

Kind regards

**The Practice Team at Cheadle Medical Practice**