

COVID VACCINATIONS – UPDATES FROM CHARING SURGERY

Charing surgery is the Covid vaccination centre for its primary care network which includes patients of Tenterden, Hamstreet and Woodchurch surgeries. If you have not been to the surgery before and are coming by car for a vaccination clinic look out for the green and white signs as you approach to direct you to the one-way entry system to the car park. Please wait in your car until a minute or two before your appointment time as on major vaccination days there is not room in the surgery for people to wait inside while socially distanced.

If you are a patient of Charing surgery please ensure the surgery has your updated mobile number if you have one as this can be used for appointments and updates. If they do not have yours please could you email it (please do not phone for this as phone lines are very busy) to charingsurgery@nhs.net (obviously making sure your email contains name and maybe date of birth so they can identify you).

You will be sent an appointment - please do not worry if you have not yet heard as you will be called when they know vaccine will be available. If possible don't ring the surgery as they are very busy. **And, IMPORTANTLY, the surgery will be running checks as they reach the end of each age group to ensure no one has been missed before they move onto the next cohort.**

Update Saturday January 9th

Yesterday and today (Saturday) patients from Charing and the other three surgeries in their network, who had their first jab before Christmas, are having their second. Tomorrow a further 280 patients will have their first jab; from then onwards people may need to wait up to 12 weeks for their second in line with the new guidelines.

On Thursday the surgery received its first batch of the Oxford AZ vaccine; from Monday this will be taken out to care homes across the network. 300 more doses of the AZ vaccine are due next Friday. These will be used to complete care homes and any left will be given to more people over 80.

While around 1,250 people over 80 will have had their first dose by this weekend, there are over 2,600 people over 80 in the network. So about half of the patients over 80 in the network will still be waiting for their first dose. Please do not worry if you are among that number, you will be called as soon as more vaccine is available. And, as mentioned above, they will be running checks to make sure no one gets overlooked. From the 18th January the surgery hopes to start getting regular and significant batches of the AZ vaccine which will enable daily clinics and may also enable the other surgeries in the network to run clinics. Vaccination is a faster process with the AZ vaccine as it is not necessary for patients to wait 15 minutes as they do with the Pfizer.