

Wistaria & Milford Surgeries

We are receiving many telephone calls from patients asking to book their flu injections. As a practice the next flu season is already in the planning before the last one ends. However, we are not quite ready to take appointments – but hopefully I can answer some of your questions below.

FLU VACCINES are available annually to those most at risk of severe illness from flu, and now in the wake of coronavirus, the free flu jab scheme is going to be available to even more people.

We have not yet had firm guidance from NHS England as yet.

So when is the NHS flu vaccine available?

We ordered our vaccine back in December 2019 and will have delivery during September, 2020. We added to our order in April 2020 and confirm our delivery dates are unchanged.

How will I know about flu this year?

Please see our website or visit us on Facebook

<https://www.facebook.com/WistariaMilford> or see our twitter

<https://twitter.com/wistariamilford>

If you have not given permission for us to e mail our regular news, then please e mail address via our practice e mail and we can add this to your records. Whccg.wistariapractice@nhs.net

When do flu jabs start?

We will let your know the dates nearer the time. There will be plenty of opportunity for you to book and attend. We will adhere to social distancing during flu clinics and all clinicians will be wearing the correct PPE.

So what's different this year?

Now the 2020/21 flu vaccine will be offered to double the number of people than usual, with a target of 30 million vaccinations across the UK.

Be assured the practice will have more clinics in place to ensure safe vaccination and Public Health England will increase our stock.

Why should we have a flu vaccine?

The Government has said

"We want everybody to get a flu jab in the run-up to this winter and that's why we're rolling out the biggest ever programme of flu immunisation. "And we're aiming first of all for schoolchildren up to Year 7, for pregnant women, for people over 65, for people who are shielded, but then we will be extending it to people who are 50 to 65.

Now the reason for doing this is to protect the NHS in the winter months because obviously we have still got covid, we have still got the threat of a second spike on covid and it's vital therefore to keep that pressure off the NHS by everybody getting a flu jab and I really hope everybody will."

So who can have the flu jab this year?

Previously the jab had been available to those aged 65 and over, pregnant women, those with certain medical conditions or those living in a long-term care facility.

Frontline health and social care workers are also eligible to receive the flu vaccine.

Children over six months with a long-term health condition, those aged two and three and those in primary school are also eligible for the vaccine.

When is the NHS flu vaccine available?

You will be able to book an appointment during September & October. These will be available on line and we will send you a link if you are eligible.

The best time to have a flu vaccine is in the autumn, starting from the beginning of September/October.

You can arrange an appointment with your GP, or for pregnant women, your midwife may offer the jab.

Seasonal flu is typically seen in the UK between December and March; however, outbreaks can be seen as early as October and as late as May so getting the jab earlier is advised.

Having a flu vaccine doesn't just to protect yourself, but helps to protect the NHS and your loved ones, from flu.

I hope this information is helpful; we will update you as we have more news.

Jan Lamont, Practice Manager