

## WINTON HEALTH CENTRE

### Poole Pay and Bournemouth Primary Care Network

#### COVID-19 Vaccination

We know that you, like us, are struggling with the confines imposed upon us due to the COVID-19 pandemic. We have continued to provide care to all our patients throughout the year and will continue to do so albeit using different models of care to ensure everyone's safety.

The news that a vaccine has been approved by the health regulator (MHRA) shows the rapid progress that is being made to help bring some improvement to the quality of life for all of us.

To keep you as informed as possible, we will update these messages as we become aware of more information from NHS England regarding the availability of a COVID-19 vaccine.

#### Vaccine Availability

The characteristics of the approved Pfizer vaccine are problematic as it requires storage within a specific temperature range and cannot be transported once prepared and diluted. Consequently, NHS England and the Government are having to prioritise those people who are eligible to receive this newly approved vaccine based on a different priority criterion than previously published.

Other vaccines are in advanced stages of regulatory approval which are likely to be more easily managed within a general practice setting. Whilst we cannot be certain, these are expected to become more widely available in January.

#### Vaccination Programme

We are following the NHS England COVID-19 Vaccination Programme and the guidance provided about the method and timing of delivering the vaccine. The Pfizer vaccine is most likely to be given to specific groups of people based on the characteristics of the vaccine.

We will invite patients for their COVID-19 immunisation in accordance with the NHS England guidance which is designed to ensure those that are at greatest risk are vaccinated as soon as possible.

#### What are we doing?

- Westbourne Medical Centre has been established as our Designated Site for the purposes of delivering the COVID-19 vaccination.
- We will be inviting patients within the specific eligible categories to attend for their vaccine as soon as vaccine deliveries begin.
- Where necessary we will arrange for Dorset Healthcare to visit those patients who cannot physically attend Westbourne Medical Centre.

#### What is happening elsewhere in Dorset?

- NHS England are organising regional Vaccination Centres and some mobile units to deliver and administer the vaccines. Details are still being worked out and we will provide additional information when we know more.

#### What you need to do

Please be patient - you do not need to contact the practice regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. We will contact you at the soonest appropriate time and let you know how to access the vaccination programme.