



# Sele News



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## **Covid Vaccination Update**

Sele Medical Practice and Burn Brae Medical Group have been co-hosting the local Covid Vaccination Service within the Primary Care Centre since end December 2020.

We have been vaccinating our own patients as well as those from Bellingham Surgery, Haydon Bridge & Allendale, Haltwhistle, Wark & Humshaugh and Corbridge. We are proud to say that, so far, we have administered over 20,000 patients, including those in care homes, across our geographic area. This is split just over 12,000 first doses and just under 10,000 second doses.

The Practices have been using a new appointment booking system just for these vaccinations. It allows each Practice to book its own patients into a combined clinic. As well as sending us their patients, these local Practices are also sending their staff to undertake the vaccinations and provide support with data-entry and marshals to guide patients through the vaccination process on clinic days. It really is a joint effort.

**We have also welcomed an enthusiastic team of volunteer marshals and their help is very much appreciated.**

**We would also like to acknowledge the cards and messages of thanks our team has received.**

Our reception team continues to deal with a high volume of very similar calls, so you will find the answers to frequently asked questions below.

### **When will I receive my second dose?**

We are supplied with second doses of vaccine to replicate the first dose deliveries. However, the notice period continues to be very short so we often call patients to attend at very short notice. If you are still due your second vaccination, please expect a call or a text message.

### **I'm under 50, when and where will I get my vaccination?**

The local practices have agreed to continue vaccinating cohorts 1-9 which included people under 50 for various reasons.

For those who have not been included in these cohorts, an invitation will come from NHS England to attend a local mass vaccination site. The booking process for this is via the national Booking System online or by calling 119. The practice does not have access to the national booking system so cannot arrange your appointment.

We understand that a mass vaccination site is to operational from mid May at the Hexham Auction Mart. Alternatively, the Centre for Life in Newcastle can also offer appointments.

## **How long will the practice be involved in administering vaccinations?**

We anticipate that our commitment to this programme will end in late July. We have no information, as yet, about booster jabs.

## **Other news**

Whilst the practice has been exceptionally busy with the covid vaccination programme, and with offering our normal services to those in need, we have had two members of our team retire.

**Margaret Burridge, our practice nurse, retired in April after almost 18 years' service.**

**Maureen Stead retired as a receptionist after over 12 years' service in January 2021.**

**We miss them both and thank them for their commitment to the practice and its patients. We wish them each a long, healthy and happy retirement.**

Jo Blakemore has joined the reception team and is learning the myriad of tasks that reception carry out on a day to day basis.

Our registrars continue to support the practice and Dr Ann Main and Dr Emily Dodds are both working with us this year. Dr Main will be with us until mid May and Dr Dodds until end August.

## **Face to Face appointments**

We are beginning to reintroduce pre bookable face to face appointments for those who prefer them.

We have cautiously offered face to face appointments for those whose telephone consultation revealed a need to be seen all the way through the pandemic, but as we come out of lockdown, we know that patients welcome a choice.

## **Working to keep us all safe**

In the past few months we have set up protective acrylic screens at reception to keep both patients and staff safe.

All our staff wear masks on site.

Our fabric chairs have been recovered in vinyl which can be wiped clean. If you want to clean your waiting room chair before you sit down, there are wipes available to do this.

There is hand gel available within the premises and there are handwashing facilities at the entrance to the primary care centre.

Our clinical staff clean down their rooms in between patients. They clean the chairs, door handles, couches, equipment and any other surfaces which may have been touched.

There are masks available at the entrance if you have forgotten to bring one but we ask that only one mask is taken at a time as supplies are limited.

Please help to protect our staff by adhering to government legislation regarding the wearing of masks.

## **Booster covid vaccinations**

We are still awaiting guidance on these.