Coronavirus Vaccine

The five Ramsgate practices, Dashwood, East Cliff, The Grange, Newington and Summerhill are working together to deliver the vaccine programme. Between the five practices we care for over 51,000 patients across Ramsgate.

The Montefiore Medical Centre which houses both East Cliff and the Grange practices has been designated as the main vaccine site for Ramsgate. This means that patients registered with Dashwood, East Cliff and Summerhill will be offered an appointment at the East Cliff Surgery (upstairs). Patients registered with The Grange and Newington will be offered an appointment at The Grange Surgery (downstairs).

We are inviting patients based on the national priority list. Please be patient and wait to be contacted by your own surgery about the when the vaccine is available to you (see below). There will be home visits arranged for housebound patients. Please read the questions and answers below about the local vaccination service.

Which priority group are you currently vaccinating?

As of the 22nd January we have completed vaccinating all residents in Ramsgate living in a care home for older adults along with their cares – with the exception of anyone not suitable at this time due to recent COVID infection. We have also vaccinated around 60% of patients aged 80 years and over and plan to complete the first vaccinations of the remaining patients by the 30th January 2021 as we are due to receive further vaccine deliveries over the coming week.

FRONTLINE HEALTH AND SOCAL CARE WORKERS registered at one of the practices are advised to go to the following link to arrange an appointment as we are not booking them to be given at the surgeries: https://kchft.healthit.org.uk/patheks

The address below will tell you if you qualify as a eligible worker. https://www.england.nhs.uk/coronavirus/wp-content/uploads/sites/52/2021/01/c1008-Operational-Guidance-Vaccination-of -Frontline-Health-Social-Care-Workers-7-January-2021.pdf

Within the Montefiore we have vaccinated around 2600 patients to date and by the end of next week we expect to have vaccinated around 5600. Staff shortages at The Grange have not impacted on the vaccination programme at all.

How are we contacting people to invite them for a vaccine?

We are telephoning patients in the first instance, this allows us to ask some screening questions and explain arrangements at the appointment and answer any questions you may have.

If I cannot attend an appointment what should I do?

If you have received and accepted an invitation for a Covid-19 vaccine we would strongly encourage you to prioritise coming to the appointment. If for unavoidable reasons you cannot make the appointment, please call your practice to cancel so we can offer the vaccination to someone else as we are not permitted to waste any vaccines and once a vial is prepared, it must be used within a short time frame.

Why is the process so complicated?

Please be assured that we are prioritising this programme and committing all available staff to this effort as well as recruiting bank staff and volunteers. All of these staff need to be screened and trained. A significant proportion of staff are working extra hours to ensure this programme runs smoothly, but we also need to still remain as fully open as possible for the day to day work, and like most organisations, we have staff in shielding.

We are also dependent upon vaccine supply. At the moment it is centrally decided when and what sites will receive a delivery and we only receive notification a few days in advance making it challenging to plan clinics. We administer the vast majority of vaccine stock we receive within two days of them arriving at the surgery. If more stock were available we would increase our efforts to vaccinate more people sooner.

This is not like a flu vaccination programme. There are distinct differences in how the different vaccines are managed and handled. Typically with flu vaccines we receive prefilled syringes. The Covid Vaccines come in vials and require careful handling and drawing up into syringes meaning the process takes longer.

Additionally with the Pfizer vaccine, patients are required to wait 15 minutes after their vaccination meaning we have a slower flow of patients through the clinics.All practices remain open and we are having to manage the same daily workload alongside running the vaccination programme.

What is the order of patients you are vaccinating?We cannot at this stage given an idea of timescale for contact patients but we will be working through the priority groups set out by the Department of Health and Social Care below these are:

1. Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers (Complete)

2. All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers (In progress)

3. All those 75 years of age and over (In progress)

4. All those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (Due to start shortly)

5. All those 65 years of age and over (Not yet started)

6. All individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality (Not yet started)

7. All those 60 years of age and over (Not yet started)

8. All those 55 years of age and over (Not yet started)

9. All those 50 years of age and over (Not yet started)