

2020

QUEENS AVENUE SURGERY NEWSLETTER 2020

Dear Patient

As we come to the end of a very tough year for everyone we wanted to give you all an update.

Covid has made our work very challenging to say the least and contrary to some reports, we are busier than ever. Much of our work is happening behind the scenes and although our waiting rooms appear quieter due to the social distancing and Covid secure measures in place, our world has become very virtual and the doctors, nurses and all the team are working flat out with the nature of their work making it mentally very draining. We have worked tirelessly since the first lockdown in March and as a workforce we are exhausted.

In addition we have just completed the largest mass flu vaccination campaign in NHS history which was very successful and this now feels like the trial run for what is to come. The Covid vaccination programme is being rolled out gradually (mainly due to supply of the vaccine) but at a significant pace and involving a huge task force. All of this is happening while we are still trying to do the day job. Dorchester and the surrounding villages are in Wave 5 of the vaccine rollout with Waves 1 and 2 just completing their first round of vaccines. We anticipate starting to vaccinate everyone over the age of 80 and care home patients and staff from the 2nd or 3rd week in January.

The logistics of this vaccine programme are immense and we ask you all to bear with us as we prepare for this. Many patients are understandably anxious and want to know when they will be vaccinated hence we are being inundated with calls. Everyone who is eligible will be invited but it is going to take weeks to even get through the first cohort and this programme will continue for many months to come.



It is a huge and daunting task but one which we are proud to be part of and all our team will be working very hard on your behalf.

We would be very grateful if you could spread this message to help alleviate any concerns as we understand that patients are seeing their friends who may live in Weymouth being invited for vaccination. Everyone's turn will come but with millions to vaccinate it will not happen overnight.

May we take this opportunity to end on a brighter note. There are still a few difficult months ahead but hopefully by the springtime we will start to turn a corner as more people receive the vaccination and the future will start to look brighter again. In the interim, continue to stay as safe as you can, even though it is tough not to have the human contact that we normally take for granted. There are hugs on the horizon!

The Doctors and all the team at Queens Avenue Surgery would like to wish you all a very Happy Christmas and a more positive New Year.