



22<sup>nd</sup> February 2021

Dear Patient,

## COVID Vaccination for patients of Cheadle Primary Care Network (PCN)

Cheadle PCN is a collaboration of four local GP practices who are working together to provide the best care for the people in our area.

The four GP practices are Cheadle Medical Practice, Gatley Medical Centre and the two practices at Heald Green Health Centre.

We have all worked together very closely in the last few months to provide you with a **LOCAL** vaccination centre to ensure that everyone who is eligible gets immunised against COVID-19, as quickly and safely as possible.

We are proud to be ahead of nationally set targets for vaccinations.

### Here is what you need to know...

1. The vaccine clinics are held at **Heald Green Village Hall, Outwood Road, SK8 3JL**
2. We have one (occasionally two) clinics a week depending on how many vaccines we receive.
3. We are sticking as strictly as we can to government guidelines and vaccinating the “at risk groups” in the order advocated by the Joint Committee in Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI).

See [Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation: advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination, 30 December 2020 - GOV.UK \(www.gov.uk\)](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/joint-committee-on-vaccination-and-immunisation-advice-on-priority-groups-for-covid-19-vaccination-30-december-2020) or the chart at the end of this letter for more information.

4. So far we have already vaccinated over 95% of our eligible patients over 65 years and patients classed as ‘Clinically Extremely Vulnerable’ (JCVI Cohorts 1-5). If you are in this group you should have received an invite from your GP practice.
5. This week, we are vaccinating “**Group 6**” patients (carers and those under 65 with underlying health conditions that make them higher risk). This is a quite a large group and it will take us a few weeks to get through, so please wait for your invitation.
6. The government have recently changed the criteria for who is included in Group 6. These last minute changes have caught all GP practices by surprise but we are in the process of updating our invites. Please note that the government criteria for COVID ‘at risk’ and Flu ‘at risk’ **are NOT the same**. Further information is available on the link below <https://digital.nhs.uk/coronavirus/risk-assessment/population#health-conditions-and-treatments>
7. We have both Astra-Zeneca (Oxford) and Pfizer vaccines delivered to clinic but the type we receive varies week on week, depending on availability.
8. We are currently getting enough vaccines for around 1200 people per week.
9. The COVID vaccine is given as an injection in your upper arm. More information about the vaccine can be found here [COVID-19 vaccination - a guide for adults \(ulh.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/covid-19/vaccination-a-guide-for-adults)
10. Second vaccines will be offered **11-12 weeks** after your first vaccines. We will invite you for this in the same way as we did for your first injection.
11. One of our GPs Dr Bradley, has created a short Youtube video with a virtual tour around our vaccination clinic, which is available on this link: <https://youtu.be/5hUF2yEBC3Q>



## Here is what you need to do...

- a) **Be patient!** We are getting to you as quickly as we can! Each week we check who has not been vaccinated and invite anyone who hasn't already been vaccinated as soon as they are eligible.
- b) If you are age 65 years or over OR are considered Clinically Extremely Vulnerable but have **not** yet had your first dose of COVID vaccine, please get in touch with your GP practice so we can check your records and get you booked in to the next clinic.
- c) The quickest way to invite you is via a text (SMS) message. You can then (and only *then*) book an appointment directly through your mobile device. Alternatively, you can phone your surgery to book once you have received your invite.

It would help us if you can ensure we have an **up-to-date mobile number**.

You can forward the text to a trusted relative or friend to book the appointment for you. The only piece of ID you will need is your date of birth. You will **NOT** be asked for any bank details, medical history or other sensitive information

Don't worry if you don't have a mobile phone or can't click on the link. One of our team will phone you to invite you when the time comes, or you will receive a letter in the post if we can't get hold of you.

- d) If you are on **Warfarin**, please ensure you have had a recent INR test and **bring your yellow book** or the result to your appointment with you.
- e) Try and arrive as near to you can to your appointment time to ensure a smooth flow and minimise your wait. **Don't arrive too early or too late!**
- f) Don't worry if there is a queue outside! It is socially distanced so looks longer than it is. We have 12-15 vaccinators inside the hall so the queue moves very quickly. Most people queue for less than 5 minutes.
- g) **Parking is limited** at the Village Hall so it would really help if you could **walk** or someone could drop you off. It is a logistical challenge to get 1200 patients safely through the clinic and reducing congestion in the car park would be really helpful. Please note you can't drive for 15 minutes after any COVID vaccine and you may have to wait onsite for 15 minutes afterwards (depending on which vaccine you have or your medical history).
- h) We are constrained by when we can hold the clinics to due logistics of vaccine deliveries. If the clinic is during working hours, most employers are being very supportive in releasing employees to have their vaccination, as this is in everyone's interest to allow the country to start to move forward from the current situation.

We love doing these clinics and the feedback from those attending has been delightful. It gives us all some hope and positivity after a very tough year.

We can't wait to see you at Heald Green Village Hall in the near future!!!

***From all the staff and volunteers at our GP practices in Cheadle PCN***



Public Health England

Coronavirus (COVID-19)



## The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) advice on priority groups for COVID-19 vaccination

The age-based prioritisation for the COVID-19 vaccine will include **around 99% of people at risk of dying** from the disease

- 1.** residents in a **care home** for older adults and their carers
- 2.** all those **80 years of age and over** and frontline health and social care workers
- 3.** all those **75 years of age and over**
- 4.** all those **70 years of age and over** and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
- 5.** all those **65 years of age and over**
- 6.** all individuals aged **16 - 64 years with underlying health conditions** which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
- 7.** all those **60 years of age and over**
- 8.** all those **55 years of age and over**
- 9.** all those **50 years of age and over**



HANDS



FACE



SPACE