



Swallowfield Medical Practice

It's almost that time again.



Flu Vaccines



We have had the Influenza vaccinations for adults on order since 2020 and there is a rumour spreading that they are finally on their way to us! We will be running the majority of the flu clinics as we did last year –in Swallowfield Village Hall, with thanks to all of the staff at the hall who helped us so much. Clinic dates are pencilled in however we are not yet able to confirm these until we are 100% sure of the delivery dates. The last thing we want to do is book a clinic and then find the vaccines will not be here in time. It is a case of 'watch this space' for the dates: they will be published on our website and across Social Media, as well as staff contacting the vulnerable patients who need their vaccination first. These patients will be contacted by telephone, SMS message or email. Now is the time to make sure we have your contact details correct so please notify us if you have changed phone numbers and/or email address. Thank you.

As of today (24th August) it has not been confirmed if we will be able to administer Covid-19 booster jabs at the same time as the influenza vaccine, for those patients who want one. We are unable to order any Covid-19 vaccines as these are supplied to us centrally from NHS England and we still cannot specify how many vaccines we need, when we need them or which make of vaccine we would prefer. This is no different to the Covid-19 vaccination programme and all we can do is sit tight and wait for the relevant information and supplies to come through. As soon as we know, rest assured that our patients will know too.

Staff Update

We have been very short of reception staff for the last few months and have had problems recruiting – which appears to be across the board for the NHS at the moment. Having said that, I am hopeful there is light at the end of the tunnel with three new receptionists coming on board across the next few weeks. We recently recruited and trained reception staff but they decided that the position wasn't for them and have left. Being a medical receptionist is not for the faint hearted so hopefully the new ladies will thrive under pressure! When phoning in to the surgery, please can I ask that you keep in mind the person on the other end might be new.....please be patient as everyone is trying their hardest. Thank you.

We also have a new Paramedic Practitioner joining us on the 23rd September so that will bring our total to three. James is an experienced Paramedic and will be an asset to Sarah and Sam (our current Paramedic Practitioners) and the surgery as a whole.

I think that's enough for now – keep eyes peeled and ears open for news of the flu clinic dates.



Until then, wishing everyone a safe and healthy Summer & Autumn.



From Helen & the Team at SMP