

FLU VACCINATIONS 2020 – 2021 IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

This document explains what the practice will be doing regarding this years flu vaccinations and asks for **your patience and support during this years Flu Vaccination program.**

In previous years we have administered flu vaccinations in 3 ways: opportunistically i.e. if you have a GP or Nurse appointment we vaccinate you while you are in seeing the Nurse or Doctor. We have run dedicated Nurse Lead Flu Clinics, where you can phone up and we make an appointment for you to come down to the practice and we vaccinate you. Thirdly we have run **open** flu clinics, where we have a set day (usually a Saturday or Sunday) we invite all eligible patients to come down, at a time slot dependent on the first letter of their surname. These open clinics were very effective and allowed the practice to vaccinate hundreds of patients in a day.

This year is unlike any previous year because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. I know you will be aware that face to face appointments with GP's and Nurses have had to be kept to a minimum to help prevent the spread of the Corona Virus. This means the appointments we have to opportunistically vaccinate our patients have been greatly reduced. We cannot run **open** flu clinics like we have done in the past. The people we invite to the open clinics are those aged over 65 and those who have underlying medical conditions. These two groups are at the greatest risk from flu are also the two groups at most risk from Corona Virus.

We could not maintain the two metre social distancing requirements at an open clinic and it would be irresponsible of the practice to ask its two most vulnerable groups to attend and interact at a time when as we all know the Corona Virus is still out there in the community. This means we have to take a different approach to this years vaccinations.

This year the Practice will telephone and invite patients to attend pre set clinics at pre set times. This will allow us to maintain the two metre social distancing, allow staff to wear and clean their Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) between patients and most importantly vaccinate our patients in a **safe manner.**

This approach which is clinically safe, is also slower than the ways we have vaccinated patients in previous years, **the bottom line is it will take us longer to work through the vaccination program this year than in previous years.**

We as a Practice will need your support and patience to help us this year. Please do not contact the Practice to request a flu vaccination appointment, we will contact you. Please allow us time to work through our patient list. We will get to you but it will take longer.

The Scottish Government has extended this years eligible groups for vaccination to also include the over 50's to 65's. This means the Red Practice has to find a total of **3,184 appointments in the coming months to meet its obligations under the flu vaccination program.**

This will take a great deal of time, effort and resources on our part and we ask that you bear with us and support us in our efforts.

Thank you on behalf of the Doctors and staff of the Red Practice

Dr J M Auld, Dr B M Reilly, Dr E C Docherty, Dr M Mahon, Dr K Paterson



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