

THE REDCLIFFE SURGERY

Issue 2, 12th October 2020



The Redcliffe Surgery, 10 Redcliffe Street, SW10 9DT
www.theredcliffesurgery.co.uk

Autumn '20

Page 3 for
staff update

It's Flu Season!

Flu Vaccination—Frequently Asked Questions

When will the surgery be offering the flu vaccine this year?

From September 2020 and throughout the autumn/winter months, we will be inviting eligible patients to book an appointment for their flu vaccination.

The flu vaccine is a safe and effective vaccine that helps to protect those most at risk from flu and potentially serious influenza-related complications such as pneumonia.

Flu vaccination clinics are being held on Saturdays (daytime) and during evening clinics Monday—Wednesday.

Am I Eligible for the flu vaccine?

If you are aged 65+ (by 31st March 2020), are pregnant, or are usually eligible for the flu vaccine in previous years due to your medical condition, you will remain eligible for the flu vaccination this year.

In addition to this, the national flu programme has been expanded this year to include a larger proportion of the

population. Eligibility criteria below

Patients who are usually eligible for the flu vaccine and remain eligible:

- ⇒ Pregnant Women
- ⇒ Children aged 2 and 3 years old
- ⇒ People turning 65 on or before 31st March 2020
- ⇒ People aged 6months+ with medical conditions such as COPD, heart failure, chronic kidney disease, chronic liver disease, neurological conditions, Diabetes or a weakened immune system which make them at increased risk of developing complications from flu.
- ⇒ Children in primary school will be vaccinated at school

Additional eligible groups for flu season winter 2020:

- ⇒ Patients aged 50 – 64 years old will be invited to have their vaccination at the surgery in November and December 2020, subject to vaccine supply.
- ⇒ Children of school Year 7 age in secondary schools (those aged 11 on 31 August 2020) will be vaccinated at school
- ⇒ Household members of shielding patients.



Flu Vaccination

Frequently Asked Questions

I'm 50 – 64 years old and have heard that I am eligible for the vaccine this year, when can I be vaccinated?

People aged 50 – 64 will become eligible for the flu vaccine from November 2020, this is to allow practices to prioritise vaccination of the most at risk patients first.

Flu vaccination orders are placed up to 1 year in advance of the current flu season, and the quantities ordered are based on the size of the eligible population. This year, due to the pandemic, we expect that demand for the flu vaccine will be much higher than that of previous years.

Therefore, patients aged 50 – 64 without any pre-existing medical conditions, who are newly eligible for the vaccine, will be invited for their flu vaccination only after the most vulnerable eligible groups have been offered vaccination, subject to vaccine stock levels.

Patients are also able to receive their flu vaccination at community pharmacies.

Can my school-aged child be vaccinated at the practice?

The practice is only able to offer vaccination for children aged 2 or 3 years old **or** for children aged 6 months and over who have a medical condition that makes them at increased risk of complications from the flu.

Flu vaccination is available though your child's school if they are in primary school or year 7 at secondary school.

What steps have the practice put in place to protect patients attending flu clinics from COVID?

We have implemented the following safety measures:

- ⇒ Patients and staff are required to wear face masks
- ⇒ Patients are asked to queue outside the practice 2 meters apart
- ⇒ Alcohol hand gel is available upon arrival
- ⇒ One way system in and out of the practice to avoid crossing paths with other patients. Patients will be shown out of the practice from a side exit
- ⇒ Patients who are able bodied will be vaccinated standing up at the entrance of the room to minimise surfaces touched and time spent inside the practice
- ⇒ Patient areas are disinfected by staff at regular intervals, however disinfectant wipes are also available for patients to use if required

Will having the flu vaccine cause a false positive if I have a COVID-19 test?

No. COVID-19 and Influenza are different illnesses caused by different viruses.

COVID-19 is caused by the SARS-CoV-2 virus which is a type of coronavirus, not an influenza virus, and so would not be present in any flu vaccine.

It is possible to have both COVID-19 and Influenza at the same time, therefore it is extremely important to have your flu vaccination if you are in one of the vulnerable groups.

Will the flu vaccine cause me to have flu?

No.

The Vaccine offered to adults is an inactivated influenza vaccine—it does not contain any live viruses.

The nasal flu vaccine which is offered to children contains small amounts of weakened (attenuated) flu viruses which does not cause flu.

Flu Vaccine and COVID-19

1. It is possible to have both COVID-19 and Flu
2. Research suggests that if you have flu and coronavirus at the same time, you are more likely to be seriously ill
3. It is still safe to have the flu vaccine if you've had COVID-19

If you are at increased risk of coronavirus, you are also at increased risk from influenza. It's therefore important that you do not delay having your flu vaccination.

For more information on the flu vaccination, visit
<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/vaccinations/flu-influenza-vaccine/>



Surgery Update

Dr Suzanne Farrar retires after 35 years

Message from Dr Farrar

In October 2020 I will be leaving The Redcliffe Surgery, after working in the NHS for 35 years.

When I started at the practice the NHS and Surgery were very different places. We did not have booked appointments so the queues to see a doctor were very long. There were no computers in the surgery and only one receptionist. I used to deliver all the babies myself and take all the night calls, so it was not unusual for me to be up all night before coming into work the following day - something I do not miss.

There have been many changes in the NHS and the way healthcare has been delivered over the years, not all good, but despite this I have never lost sight of the fact that to be a doctor is a privilege and I have had a long and rewarding career.

I am very sad to be leaving The Redcliffe Surgery and will miss the patients who have been so kind to me over the years as well as the staff who have worked so hard to deliver the service.



We Welcome new members of the practice team

Dr Mandana Shoa— (f) General Practitioner

Dr Mandana Shoa has been a speciality trainee with us for the last year.

She successfully completed her training In August, and she has joined our team as a salaried GP doing 6 sessions per week from 1st September.

Aminah Thomas—(f) Receptionist/ Administrator

Aminah joined the practice in July 2020 as part of our

administrative team. She has recently graduated from King's College London with a degree in Neuroscience. She is applying for a Graduate Entry Medicine and aims to pursue a career as a surgeon. In her free time, Aminah enjoys hiking and binge watching crime documentaries on Netflix.

Peter Shield—(m) Receptionist / Administrator

Peter is an ex-mathematics student who joined the practice in September 2020 after having a change of heart and deciding on a career as a doctor. He plans to apply for a place in medical school. When he is not working, he coaches badminton and is a huge fan of musical theatre.

Joyce Bakare—(f) Receptionist/ Administrator

Joyce is the newest member of our practice team, having joined the practice in September 2020. She is a recent graduate with a degree in Politics and International Relations. In her spare time she enjoys nature documentaries and going to the gym.

Our full staff list can be found on our website

The Redcliffe Surgery holds its first Patient Group Virtual Meeting

The Patient Participation Group (PPG) is a group of patients who meet regularly with the practice management team to discuss developments at the practice.

They are a route for patients to advise and inform the Practice on what matters most to patients and to help identify solutions to problems.

On 28th September, Redcliffe Surgery held its first virtual PPG meeting over video chat. The patient group were invited to submit questions or feedback surrounding the practice's new ways of working or questions that have arisen during the pandemic.

Minutes to this meeting and previous PPG meetings can be found on our website.

If you would like to join the Patient Participation Group, please speak to a member of our reception team, or submit an enquiry through our website.