

Hurry up and wait...

Last weekend was a massive moment for all of us at Woodchurch Surgery. With the other member surgeries of the Primary Care Network (PCN) we vaccinated 975 people with not a single wasted vaccine. It was a huge effort and depended on lots of staff and the closure of Charing to any other work. Manageable at a weekend and we are preparing for a repeat event in 3 weeks to deliver the second dose.

It really was a triumph but also exhausting and we were all kept going by the really positive vibe and comments from all the patients there. Something of a party atmosphere - but it's not over yet and just shows what a mammoth task this will be.

Now we have to wait. We are trying to negotiate some smaller deliveries so we can run more regular and more manageable clinics which can then become the norm over the next year. Clearly with the new variant and the rising numbers locally (and across the South East) the reality of Covid is more palpable and a lot of people are asking when they will get vaccinated. Everyone is completely deserving and the seeming randomness of selection will be hard to bear but we are running regular searches and doing our best to get on with the task in hand.

Please don't phone to check - so we can keep our lines open we will try our very best to keep everyone updated with newsletters. It is important that we can contact people easily so we can invite you at short notice so please ensure we have a mobile phone number - email it to us or pop a note through the door. This way we can ensure minimal wastage and keep the program running. If you do have queries about the vaccine then emailing the team at kmccg.woodchurchsurgery@nhs.net is probably the most efficient way for us to help you.

For any of you that do get the virus in the meantime then we are doing remote monitoring for the high risk groups when we are notified of a positive swab. Anyone can access help for assessment so please call the surgery in the daytime and 111 at the weekends. If you feel that you or a relative/loved one is slipping through the net please contact us - the first thing to do in any medical emergency is "get help" so please reach out for help if you are concerned.

We'll be signing off for Christmas on the 24th and will re-open on Tuesday 29th December. In the meantime I hope everyone makes the most of a very strange Christmas period and stays fit and healthy mentally and physically.

Best wishes from Jack Hickey and the team at Woodchurch Surgery