

Update from the Surgery

On Friday we had our last Pfizer clinic at Charing Surgery and over the next week we are doing the very last of the Astra Zeneca which means that we will not be able to give any more Covid vaccines. The current situation is that all vaccines will be given via the Mass Vaccination Centres (MVC) from now on.

Some people attending MVCs have been rejected for one reason or another which sometimes baffles me completely. So far we have tried to accommodate those people in-house but now we really will not be able to simply because we won't have any vaccine to give. Some people have also been told they should only be immunised in the hospital due to serious allergies in the past. There is genuinely no referral route for this yet so we are just keeping a list of names and are passing this on to the CCG to sort out. Let us know if you are affected by this.

With 50 million vaccines given so far in the UK there will be some "mishaps" with the record keeping. Without wanting to make people nervous that they will be turned away at Heathrow thinking they have been double-jabbed it is worth checking your vaccination status on the NHS App.

The process is that when you are given the vaccine it is recorded on a system called Pinnacle which then migrates the details onto your GP records. The NHS App bolts on to your GP records and is used to access various information (results of blood tests etc) and request medication. On the App are the details of your vaccination status which can be downloaded as a PDF and printed out. Especially in the early roll-out there were problems with the stability of Pinnacle and probably some dubious data-inputting by the users so needless to say there will be some inconsistencies. If you check and a vaccine is missing please tell the provider that vaccinated you to correct it.

We have fielded a few calls to see if we can influence where people can have vaccines and we really can't. Sometimes going on the booking website the first choices can be in another county altogether but the site is constantly being updated so please keep trying and you can book both vaccines and will get somewhere closer to home. If you can't use the website ring 119.

My household has been so excited about going back to school but half-term starts next weekend (already!). Hopefully the Bank Holiday will be better weather than the last one - if so remember the sun lotion. I'm not anticipating any new NHS turnabouts this week so will update after half-term unless Matt Hancock has a funny dream...

Best wishes on behalf of the team at Woodchurch Surgery

Jack Hickey - GP