

Weekly update from the Surgery

Blimey, it is all a bit late this week. I was distracted by a few things yesterday but generally it was not a good day for English sports.

Very briefly we are trying to get back to normal as much as possible and will soon be trying to do telephone consults as a timed appointment and the nursing staff are leading the way with it. Our priorities are accessibility and to not keep people waiting while providing great care. It may be that a telephone appointment may not be available "today" but please do say if the problem is urgent and we will try and ensure that we prioritise on clinical need.

The EU countries have all agreed to restart the Oxford Astra Zeneca vaccine as it has been established that there is no increase in blood clots after having it. I have seen some evidence that there is actually a lowering of blood clots after vaccination. Perhaps there is an element of using data to show what you want it to show... The message, though, is to get vaccinated and that Oxford remains safe.

We have been told that we will continue to get the vaccines we were promised despite the rumours that the supplies were in a drought. We have decided as a PCN to try to get 2nd doses to the cohorts 1-6 that have received a vaccine and let the Mass Vaccination Centres (MVCs) try to get the 1st dose for those aged below 50. We have another 9000 people to vaccinate for a second time and then we can help out with the cohorts 7 and beyond.

Ultimately anyone that has had a first vaccine at the surgery or at Charing should be receiving an invite for a second vaccine but will generally be around 12 weeks from the first. If you are a carer or feel you should be on a vulnerable group please continue to email us at [kmccg.woodchurchsurgery@nhs.net](mailto:kmccg.woodchurchsurgery@nhs.net) . Equally if you are 12 weeks since the first dose please let us know if you haven't been contacted for the second dose.

We are aiming to control what we can - after this weekend a bobbling rugby ball is harder to control than the English, Welsh and Italians thought. Nevertheless, the sunflowers are growing well and Philippa from the PPG tells me that apparently while they turn to the sun, if it rains they turn to each other. Perhaps there is something we can take from a sunflower?

With best wishes on behalf of the Surgery

Jack Hickey GP