

Weekly update from the Surgery

I have heard this week that 40% of the country has received a vaccine which is great news. It is really important we try and keep this momentum going and it is clear now that the government are focusing on the mass vaccination centres to deliver to age groups that they can easily define. Our role in primary care is to identify the at risk population and we have chosen to include people living with Asthma as part of that group. I suspect we will then be tasked with getting a second dose to the care homes and those over 70 but that is pure guesswork at the moment.

Our cracking reception team are busy ringing up the people on our register of those between 16 and 64 who have "a long term condition" and there are a few themes running through. Surprisingly to me there is less enthusiasm among this group of people to receive a vaccine and goes strongly against what we have experienced with the other groups so far. One theme is that people feel less at risk now and would prefer to wait for a "better vaccine" covering the other strains of the virus. These "better vaccines" aren't even made yet let alone available. Please don't wait and please take the opportunity to protect not only yourself but others too by being vaccinated. As with the flu vaccine there are annual adaptations to the vaccine and as these new "better vaccines" are available they will be used. I can't imagine that this will be a one-off vaccine so best to get 95% immunity now rather than leave yourself 100% at risk.

Our only other problem can be getting hold of people as we generally have a with-held number which leads to a bit of suspicion. If you are in Cohort 6 then please do pick up the phone in case it is us dialing in although apologies if you get offers of free solicitors for your latest motoring accident.

Reminder of Cohort 6:

Adults aged 16 to 65 years in an at-risk group which includes:

- Chronic respiratory disease
- Chronic heart disease and vascular disease
- Chronic kidney disease
- Chronic liver disease
- Chronic neurological disease, including severe or profound learning disability
- Diabetes mellitus
- Immunosuppression
- Asplenia or dysfunction of the spleen
- Morbid obesity (body mass index over
- Severe mental illness

Younger adults in long-stay in-patient, nursing and residential care settings

Adult carers: Those who are eligible for a carer's allowance, or those who are the sole or primary carer of an elderly or disabled person who is at increased risk of COVID-19 mortality and therefore clinically vulnerable.

As always please pen an email to us if you are in Cohort 6 and don't think we know. This is most likely to be if you are a carer and are not on our carer's register -

kmccg.woodchurchsurgery@nhs.net

The sunflowers are growing well and the tallest is now 14 cm. My favorite quote of the week is from a delighted lady saying "I now have hundreds of little soldiers in me ready to fight". I love that analogy and now I see the clear liquid in the syringe as a fully armored elite squad of soldiers. I hope Covid sees the size of our armies and decides not to pick a fight.

Best wishes on behalf of Woodchurch Surgery

Jack Hickey - GP