



# Coronavirus vaccination update: 17<sup>th</sup> December 21

## **IMPORTANT NEWS FROM A31 PRIMARY CARE NETWORK (BOUNDARIES SURGERY, BENTLEY VILLAGE SURGERY, CHAWTON PARK SURGERY, THE WILSON PRACTICE)**

You will have seen in the news recently that Covid cases are rising rapidly, and the Prime Minister has set a very challenging target to offer all **eligible adults** a Covid booster by 31<sup>st</sup> December. This includes all those aged 18 years and over who had their second vaccination on or before 8th October (12 weeks). For the North Hampshire area this is over 120,000 vaccinations! For us here in the A31 PCN (Primary Care Network), this is **11,800 people** by 31 December 2021.

Having the booster is really important to **maximise protection** against the new Omicron variant. All NHS services, including local GP services, are now asked to **urgently support** increasing Covid booster delivery in the coming weeks.

This is a **huge ask** and we will do our utmost to protect as many people as possible with a booster vaccination in this very short time frame. Our plan is to increase the number of booster appointments available to three times that currently on offer.

GPs continue to work together across North Hampshire and we currently have the site at Jameson House in Chineham. Additionally, we now have new sites at the Hampshire Court Hotel in Chineham, Gillies Health Centre, Basingstoke & Whitewater Health in Hartley Witney. We are further supporting this effort by opening additional satellite clinics in Alton at The Wilson Practice and Chawton Park Surgery. The number of appointments we will be offering **will not cover the 11,800 required** so most boosters will still need to be undertaken at sites other than Alton. If you already have an appointment booked for your covid booster, it is really important that you keep that appointment.

Where and when these clinics are held will be driven by availability of workforce and vaccine supply. More details of all the clinic sites and how to book an appointment will follow shortly when arrangements are confirmed.

In order to release staff time to vaccinate, we will **stop all routine work with immediate effect** and redeploy some of our staff to deliver additional vaccinations. We will continue to prioritise people with urgent care needs or symptoms suggestive of cancer on a day-to-day basis. All our other available capacity will be refocused on Covid vaccinations. **Please only contact your surgery if your needs are urgent.**

Information on whether symptoms need urgent help can be found at <https://111.nhs.uk>

If you have an existing booking with your surgery, please do not cancel the appointment, it is our intention to still see those patients already booked in. Many of the appointments already

booked are for flu immunisation. It is still **really important** to get you flu jab if you are eligible and as yet have not received it.

We will continue to keep the e-consult system open. However, after it has been reviewed by a clinician you may be asked to contact the practice again in the New Year.

**Please do not telephone your surgery unless you have an urgent care need.** We will invite all eligible patients to book a Covid booster appointment as soon as clinic arrangements are confirmed.

We thank you for your patience and support during this incredibly challenging time.