**Covid-19 Vaccination Roll Out FAQ’s**

The Covid-19 vaccination programme is being rolled out in waves.

**When does this start?**

We are part of wave 2 which began vaccinating in December 2020.

**Will I have my vaccine at the surgery?**

We are working we our [PCN](https://www.stlukesprimarycarecentre.co.uk/pages/Primary-Care-Network---PCN) to deliver these vaccinations. If you are viewing this document electronically, please click on the link for more information on what a PCN is and how is helps GP surgeries. If you are reading this document in paper format, more information can be found on the PCN page on our website.

Although patients might prefer to come to the surgery to have their vaccinations, it would mean that we would need to close the premises to everything except Covid Vaccinations for 12 months in order to ensure we could vaccinate all of our patients. As you appreciate, this is entirely impractical as it would mean all of our patients would need to go elsewhere for any other medical care, prescriptions, appointments or advice.

Conducting the vaccinations at a designated vaccine hub also means that we keep the footfall at the practice itself to a minimum still.

**I am shielding do I still need to go to the vaccination hub?**

Where possible we will conduct clinics for shielding patients at the surgery, but due to the way the vaccines are packaged this has to be very structured. We are not able to vaccinate on an ad hoc basis as we would do with the flu vaccination.

**Where do I go to have my vaccination?**

Our vaccination hub is operating out of Kings Heath Community Centre. The post code for this is NN5 7LN or you can click on this link to load Google maps (<https://goo.gl/maps/YrFgEiFvng9xHggV8>)

**Who will be vaccinating me?**

You may be vaccinated by a member of the clinical team from any of the practices within our PCN. All staff providing vaccinations will be fully trained and have been signed off as competent to provide a vaccination.

**When are the clinics going to be?**

The clinics will be running between 9.00am and 6.00pm and may be any day of the week including weekends.

**How do I book an appointment?**

We will contact you to book your appointment. **Please do not contact us**, unless specifically asked to by the surgery.

You may be contacted by a member of staff from any of the practices within our PCN. If you have a mobile number you will be sent a text to book via the online platform.

**How do I know this is not a scam text?**

The wording of the message that you will receive is as follows:

*Dear \*your name\* you have been invited to book your Covid 19 Vaccination. You have been nominated by St Luke’s Medical Practice. Please click the link to book your vaccination time \*link\* from Park Avenue Medical Centre.*

Park Avenue Medical Centre are part of our PCN and are processing the invites on our behalf.

You should **never** follow a link that asks you to confirm banking details or references money in any way.

**What if I am not able to follow the link to the online platform?**

If you do not have a mobile or cannot follow the link, a member of staff from the vaccination hub will call you on your landline and they will complete the booking on your behalf.

If you have any other queries about your appointment you should contact the hub direct on 01604 974889. This line is ONLY for patients who have been invited to make an appointment. Please do not contact them if you have not received an invite as they will not be able to help you.

**What if the date offered is not suitable for me?**

The vaccination program is going to carry on for the foreseeable future. If you are not able to make this clinic, we will invite you when we receive our next delivery of vaccines.

**What about social distancing and infection control?**

All staff in the vaccination hub will be wearing PPE as per infection control requirements. Patients and staff will operate at the appropriate social distance at all times.

Patients will be asked to use hand sanitiser on arrival at the vaccination hub and wear a face covering.

**Who is eligible for the Covid-19 Vaccination?**

The long term goal is that **all** patients will be offered the Covid-19 vaccination. However, this has to be rolled out in stages.

The current government guidance states patients will be vaccinated in the following order:

* residents in a care home for older adults and their carers, and housebound patients
* all those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers all those 75 years of age and over
* all those 70 years of age and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals
* all those 65 years of age and over
* all individuals aged 16 years to 64 years with underlying health conditions which put them at higher risk of serious disease and mortality
* all those 60 years of age and over
* all those 55 years of age and over
* all those 50 years of age and over

**Please be aware that we do not have the ability to deviate from this order, however strongly patients may feel that their needs mean they should be prioritised earlier in the roll out**

**What vaccines are being used?**

At present, you may be offered either the Pfizer or the AstraZeneca vaccine. The vaccine you are offered will be decided by the type that has been delivered to us. We do not know which vaccine we will get or how many until very shortly before it is delivered.

[Click here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-pfizer-biontech-vaccine-for-covid-19/information-for-uk-recipients-on-pfizerbiontech-covid-19-vaccine) for information on the Pfizer vaccine.

[Click here](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca/information-for-uk-recipients-on-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca) for information on the AstraZeneca vaccine.

**Can I choose which vaccine I have?**

Not at present. Vaccination will be offered to patients as we receive supplies.

**How many doses do I need?**

Both the Pfizer & the AstraZeneca vaccine require 2 doses to give full immunity. However, immunity begins to build as soon as the first vaccine is given.

**Why has the 2nd dose been changed from 21 days to 12 weeks later?**

The decision to give the second dose at 12 weeks was made by the Chief Medical Officer to the Government, to ensure that the first dose was prioritised and offered to as many patients as possible. [Click here](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-the-prioritisation-of-first-doses-of-covid-19-vaccines) to read the statement explaining why this decision was made.

**How do I know the vaccine is safe?**

All vaccinations must be signed off by the MHRA (Medicines & Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency). Both of the above named vaccines have been signed off as safe for everyone (see next point).

**Who can’t have the vaccination?**

Based on the initial vaccinations that have been given, the only patients who are being advised not to have the vaccine at present are those who have a known **anaphylactic reaction** to vaccinations, medicines or food. Such patients will carry an EPIPEN or other autoinjector of Adrenaline.

**Can patients decline the vaccine?**

Patients can the decline the Covid-19 vaccination just as they can decline any other vaccination. We are not aware of any plans to make the vaccination mandatory.

**How will you keep me up to date as the vaccination programme continues?**

We expect there to be regular updates to the vaccination programme roll out as more and more patients are vaccinated. This will be as a result of information from the vaccination hubs, studies, ongoing trials, development of new vaccinations and organisation of the clinics themselves.

We will keep you up to date using any of the following methods of communication:

* Practice website: [www.stlukesprimarycarecentre.co.uk](http://www.stlukesprimarycarecentre.co.uk)
* Facebook: [www.facebook.com/StLukesPCC/](http://www.facebook.com/StLukesPCC/)
* Text messages
* Phone calls
* Reminders on prescriptions
* Opportunistic updates during contact with patients