**IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING THE COVID VACCINATION PROGRAMME**

On 1st December 2020 NHS England issued GP Practices with directions in respect of the roll-out of the anticipated Covid vaccinations. NHSE have set out the first cohorts of patients who will receive the vaccinations and the priority order for vaccine delivery, which are shown below. We will be contacting all eligible patients in due course, but in the meantime we are asking patients **not** to contact us as the number of Covid vaccination calls we are receiving is overwhelming our phone lines.

**NHSE Covid Vaccination priority groups:**

1. Older adults’ resident in a care home and care home workers;

2. All those 80 years of age (and over) and Health and Social Care Workers;

3. All those 75 years of age and over;

4. All those 70 years of age and over;

5. All those 65 years of age and over;

6. \*High-risk adults under 65 years of age;

7. \*Moderate-risk adults under 65 years of age;

8. All those 60 years of age and over;

9. All those 55 years of age and over; and

10. All those 50 years of age and over.

***Subject to vaccine availability, NHSE may amend these cohorts***

The Government’s Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation will advise GP Practices of the criteria for ***"High-risk adults under 65 years of age"*** and ***“Moderate‑risk adults under 65 years of age***” at a future date before giving their authority to vaccinate this group of patients. Prior to receiving this guidance, we will not be in a position to identify all of these patients, so please do not ask us to do so at this stage.

For logistical reasons vaccinations will not be delivered to individual Practices for administration to patients at the Surgery. Groups of Practices will be delivering Covid vaccinations at a Designated Site, which will be advised at the time the patient is notified that their cohort has been opened by NHSE. In the meantime, **please do not contact the Practice requesting vaccination** – we cannot offer vaccines to patients outside of these guidelines.

It is our intention to work with NHSE to ensure that all our eligible patients are offered Covid vaccination as quickly as possible. We will be providing staff to work at the Covid Designated Site, delivering vaccinations to patients. However, since our staff cannot be in two places at once, this may mean a longer wait for some services at the Practice.

We are asking our patients to help us by understanding that we are following NHSE guidance with regard to the Covid vaccine administration priority groups. Please do not make calls to the Practice requesting earlier vaccination outside of the NHSE timetable.