**Flu 2020**

**Rydings Hall Surgery Flu Plan**

This year we have to factor in social distancing into our flu vaccination schedule and so we are introducing new systems to keep everyone safe. All patients MUST pre-book an appointment slot in advance.

**Everyone eligible needs to pre-book one of the following options from 1st September onwards:**

**At the Practice**

We will be holding several clinics in September and we ask that you only attend if you have pre-booked an appointment.

* Anyone arriving at the surgery for the clinic should be appropriately dressed to enable an efficient service and easy access to their arm. All patients should please bring their own a face covering or mask with them.
* If you are able to you will be asked to stand whilst the vaccination is given. Only flu vaccinations will be given in these clinics.
* Please do not arrive early for your appointment

 **Children should book to attend an appointment at the surgery.**

We shall keep a very limited number of flu appointments at the surgery building which will be reserved for at-risk children.

* If your child is eligible to have a vaccination at school, but not otherwise in another at risk group, they should have their vaccine at school, not at the Doctors surgery.

**Home visits are available - for medically housebound patients only.**

We shall continue to offer essential home visits for very frail patients to have their flu vaccinations at home and for those living in care homes.

* Home visit slots are very limited and so are strictly reserved only for those who physically couldn’t get into a car to attend an appointment with help from a friend, family or a taxi.

**How to book:**

****If you are eligible:

* To book your flu vaccination Please telephone 01484 715324 and select the option for our dedicated flu line any week day from 1st September onwards during these times 10:00 – 12:00 & 14:00 – 16:00

If you are aged 50-64:

* If you do not have a long term condition, you shall only become eligible later in the season. We will text you when further details are announced, so please let us know if you recently changed your mobile number. Details will also be on our website and Facebook page.

**How to decline:**

* If you already know that you don’t want a flu vaccine at all please let us know so that your vaccine can be offered to someone else who needs it. You can decline via the txt invite, email or by speaking to a member of the team. This year more than ever, this is very important as vaccine supplies are expected to be in extremely high demand. **Email:** [**patients.rydingshall@nhs.net**](mailto:patients.rydingshall@nhs.net)

**Flu 2020: Frequently Asked Questions**

When are the flu appointments available to be booked into?

Rydings Hall Surgery shall start to open up appointments for booking into a flu vaccine clinic from 1st September 2020 onwards.



When do the flu clinics start?

The pre-booked clinics will be scheduled to start towards the middle of September, once stock delivery dates are confirmed.

**WHO?**

Who should get the flu vaccine?

This year the flu vaccine is being offered on the NHS to:

* adults 65 and over (including anyone who will be 65 by the 31st March 2021)
* people with certain medical conditions (including children in at-risk groups from 6 months of age)
* pregnant women
* CARERS - including people living with someone who's at high risk from coronavirus (on the NHS shielded patient list)
* children aged 2 and 3 on 31 August 2020
* children in primary school (NB these vaccines are available via the school **ONLY**)
* children in year 7 (secondary school) (NB these vaccines are available via the school **ONLY**)
* frontline health or social care workers

I am aged 50-64, am I also now eligible?

Later in the year, the flu vaccine is expected to be able to be given to people aged 50 to 64.

More information will be available to the 50-64 ‘newly eligible’ patients later in the autumn and until then, Leigh View appointments are only being opened up to be booked by those patients who were already eligible. We have to prioritise vaccine stock for the most vulnerable patients first.

* If you're aged 50 to 64 but also in another at-risk group, you should book for your flu vaccine and not wait (bookings start from 1st September).
* If you’re aged 50 to 64 and were not already in an at risk group, please ensure the practice has a correct mobile number for you, as details will be sent by text about the availability of additional vaccines later in the season.

I am almost 65, am I eligible now?

Yes. As with previous years, anyone who will be 65 years old by the 31st March 2021 will be entitled to receive a flu vaccine from the 65+ supply even before they physically turn 65.

Can I have my flu vaccine when I am coming up the surgery for another medical reason?

Yes, but only if you have an appointment and only if time allows on the day.

If an eligible patient is already coming to the surgery for a face to face appointment with a GP, Nurse or HCA a flu vaccine can potentially be given if time allows on the day.

This will only apply to appointments from 12th September 2020 for at risk pts

* + - From mid-November (we believe) for the newly eligible 50-64 year olds