

15 April 2021

Dear Patient,

## COVID-19 Vaccination Update

### 1. Practice Uptake

We are pleased to inform you that we have offered a COVID-19 vaccination to all our patients over 50 years of age, and to anyone over 16 years of age with an underlying health condition.

Uptake has been very high, and we are now starting second dose vaccinations. If you have had a vaccination 11 - 12 weeks ago, please check for texts inviting you for your second vaccination.

Age group given 1 <sup>st</sup> dose	% uptake
Over 70 years	97.7%
65-69 years of age	96.1%
50-64 years of age	91.8%
16-64 years of age with underlying health condition	86.2%

### 2. AstraZeneca vaccinations

Recent studies have concluded that there is a slight rise in incidence of rare blood clots (thrombosis) with concurrent thrombocytopenia (low platelets) in people who have been given the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccination. This is very rare affecting 4 people per million vaccinated.

However, generally the advice is that the benefit of having the AstraZeneca vaccine outweighs the risks of contracting COVID-19, unless under 30 years of age.

#### Key points:

- a. People who have had their 1st dose of a vaccine without complication should have their second dose of the same vaccine.
- b. In most people over 30 years old, the benefits of both the AstraZeneca & Pfizer vaccines outweigh the risk
- c. In most people under 30 years old but with underlying health conditions, the benefits of both the AstraZeneca & Pfizer vaccines outweigh the risk
- d. In people under 30 but without underlying health conditions, the risks of the AstraZeneca vaccine outweigh the benefits and thus, these people should be offered an alternative vaccine (younger people without underlying health conditions are less likely to be hospitalised with COVID, hence why the risk / benefit ratio changes for otherwise well people under 30 years of age)

- e. Patients with underlying blood / clotting disorders & pregnant women should have a discussion with a GP about the risks
- f. Patients with a history of cerebral venous sinus thrombosis, a genetic predisposition to clotting, or known antiphospholipid syndrome should have a discussion with a GP about the risks

For further details please refer to this Patient leaflet

[https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/976880/PHE\\_COVID-19\\_AZ\\_vaccination\\_guide.pdf](https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/976880/PHE_COVID-19_AZ_vaccination_guide.pdf)

Yours sincerely



Dr Andrew Johnson



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