

The Westgate Practice Newsletter

SUMMER EDITION 2023



FLU AND COVID 2023

The Westgate Practice are pleased to confirm that we will be offering patients the influenza vaccination for clinics starting mid-September. Please wait to be contacted by the practice either by text or letter.

As at 20th July, there has yet to be an announcement regarding the expected covid-19 booster programme.

Whilst it is the practice's intention to provide both influenza and the covid-19 booster, we can only plan for the administration of flu at this time.

Should we receive the required covid-19 programme information and vaccines prior to your clinic date, this may be offered to you at your appointment. Unfortunately, eligibility and the supply of vaccines is not within our control.

Patients aged 50-64 years who are not in an at risk group, are not currently eligible for the flu vaccination. Children aged 2 or 3 years on 31.08.2023 will be invited for the intranasal flu. Primary and secondary school children up to Yr11 will be offered the flu vaccination as part of the Schools Immunization programme.

The Patient Participation Group (PPG)

We have been working closely with our Patient Participation Group over this past year to look at the services we provide, to discuss issues affecting the practice and to keep members updated and informed.

The practice have also worked hard to increase the number of people involved with the PPG by inviting patients to join our Virtual PPG. We now have approximately 200 patients who form our virtual Patient Participation Group.

We can also report that we held our very first AGM online, to highlight the past years pressures and successes, direction of travel and our aspirations for the future. We would like to thank all those who have played an active part in both our PPG that meets regularly and our reinvigorated virtual group. Your time and input is gratefully received.



Measles is an infection that spreads very easily and can cause serious problems in some people. These can include meningitis, hearing loss and problems during pregnancy.

The MMR vaccine can prevent measles. It also protects you from mumps and rubella. Two doses are required to provide lifelong protection.

Please contact the surgery if your child has missed their vaccinations or if you are unsure whether your child has received it.

CHANGES TO THE SHINGLES PROGRAMME

Shingles is a painful condition caused by the same virus that causes chicken pox. Following the introduction of the Shingles Vaccination programme in 2013, the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation has recommended a number of changes, commencing 1st September 2023

These include:

- A change from a one dose vaccine to a two dose schedule
- Doses will be given 6-12 months apart
- The age that you will become eligible will be lowered to 60 years over a 10 year period in two 5 year phases.
- Those who reach 65 or 70 years from 1st Sept 23 to 31st Aug 2028 will be called during Phase 1.
- Those who reach 60 or 65 years from 1st Sept 28 to 31st Aug 2033 will be invited during Phase 2.
- Immunosuppressed patients may be offered the vaccination from the age of 50 years. Doses will be given 8-12 weeks apart.
- From 1st Sept 2033, the Shingrix vaccine will be offered routinely at age 60 years.
- There is no requirement for those who have already been vaccinated against Shingles, to be recalled or have any additional vaccinations.

KEEP UP TO DATE WITH THE PRACTICE

The latest news and health forms on the website:
www.westgatepractice.co.uk

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OTHER NEWS

PRACTICE CLOSURES

The Practice will close at 1pm on Tuesday 15th Aug, 19th Sept and 17th Oct for **Protected Learning Time**. This is allocated training time for practice staff. The practice will also close for the Bank Holiday on Monday 28th August.



WELCOME

We would like to welcome Sandy and Claire who join our Patient services Team. We have also recruited a further Advanced Nurse Practitioner, Sr Williams and a new HR Officer Jeanette. Welcome to Westgate!



PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP

Our Annual General Meeting was held via TEAMS on Friday 23rd June 2023.

The latest PPG minutes are available to view on our website. The next meeting is due to be held on Monday 25th September.

PLEASE REMEMBER!

Let us know if any of your details change including: new address, changed your mobile number, or have become a carer.