

ELM TREE SURGREY NEWS AUGUST-SEPTEMBER 2021

Since the relaxation of many of the rules and regulations in July, we are very pleased and gratified at the disciplined sensible responses of everyone in maintaining biosecurity in the premises and continuing to use the services in the most appropriate, safe ways.

We will continue to use telephone consultations as the default method, inviting patients for face to face consultations when necessary. All the clinicians scan their lists in advance and will invite some patients to come in to be seen when it is clinically appropriate.

Keep safe and sensible. Covid has not gone away so we must continue to follow the government advice, get tested if we develop any symptoms which could be covid, and comply with the advice regarding isolation.

The covid vaccine is now available to all adults so if you still have not been vaccinated, please book yourself into a clinic by calling 119 or using the covid website or NHS app. It is still really important for as many people to be fully vaccinated as possible. Although the numbers are less than earlier this year, there are still hundreds of admission to hospital of covid-infected patients and dozens of covid deaths every day. All of the vaccines are far, far safer than covid.

The NHS now recommends the gap between covid vaccines should be 8 weeks, not 12 weeks; if you have your second vaccine booked already, please bring it forward to an 8 week gap- you can do this online and cancel the existing appointment if necessary.

It is looking increasingly likely that the NHS will offer covid and flu vaccines to everyone aged over 50, and all those previously classified as at risk. The vaccines will be given at the same time – “a shot in each arm” and the relevant clinics will be held at the Steam Museum. Booking arrangements have not yet been published.

If you have had your covid vaccine overseas, you cannot enter this onto your NHS app. This is national issue not a local or Elm Tree problem and is not due to our incompetence, as a patient so accused one of our senior staff. NHS England is aware of the problem and it may restrict some people’s ability to travel to countries which require proof of double vaccination before entry. As soon as we get more advice we will publish it on our Facebook page and on our website. If patients have had vaccinations anywhere other than England (Wales and Scotland from end of July), their NHS record will not be updated. For this reason they CANNOT book via 119 or online. If clinically appropriate, patients should attend a walk-in site for their 2nd dose after 8 weeks (and not before), taking with them a record of their original vaccination. They should not access a UK vaccine if they have had a complete course abroad solely to ensure a complete NHS vaccination record.

Once again, thank you all for your patience and resilience.

Elm Tree Surgery

Useful addresses:

<https://www.nhs.uk › conditions › coronavirus-covid-19>
www.elmtreesurgery.com

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