

Kingstone surgery May 2023 newsletter

Spring COVID booster campaign

By the time you read this we will have held our Saturday booster clinic (May 20th) at Kingstone for the very limited population eligible for the Spring COVID booster campaign (>75 years and those with immunosuppression as defined per tables 3 and 4 in the JCVI 'Green Book'). As usual, our website is clear about who is eligible <https://www.kingstonesurgery.co.uk/>.

If you could not make the Saturday May 20th at Kingstone you can book at Elgar house for Wednesday, Friday and Saturday clinics <https://www.herefordshiregeneralpractice.co.uk/for-patients/vaccination-clinics>

Meanwhile NHSE have been sending text messages to people to inform them of eligibility. Some people receiving these have not been eligible according to our comprehensive records, and therefore we have not been able to book them in with our clinic. It has been a confusing situation!

Incidentally, the 'Green book' (by which I mean NOT the 2018 American movie but the NHS bible of latest information on vaccine procedures and infectious diseases in the UK) is- **unusually** for an NHS document- remarkably readable. It is also freely available online and easily googleable. So if any of you have developed an interest in the area since the pandemic, fill your boots with the latest info.

Online access, bookings and repeat medications

Many of you will have booked your COVID vaccination appointment online via the link on our text messages to those eligible. I am excited to say we also now have made it possible to book multiple appointments online via <https://www.patientaccess.com/>. These include

1. GP face to face appointments (although you are unable to specify with which clinician at the moment)
2. Blood test appointments (please only if a clinician has requested for you to do have a blood test otherwise chaos will ensue)
3. Cervical smear tests (if you have received a communication to say you are due)

Unfortunately you cannot yet book our 'extended access' (ie, appts from >6.30pm and at weekends) online but we are promised this will be available from June. Don't worry, I will remind you all when the announcement comes!

If any of you are not yet registered for online access, please come to the surgery with some photo i.d. so you can be registered. It is also a GREAT way to **order repeat medications**.

Masks in the waiting room

We still have colourful signs to ask you to do so for the short time you are in the surgery, although we acknowledge this is hard to remember as they are little worn in our active lives. However we **particularly** request you do so if you have **any viral symptoms, no matter how mild**. This is to protect our more vulnerable patients and neighbours. Non-clinical staff will also wear masks if they have any viral symptoms.