



## Newsletter February 2021

Welcome to the St Austell Healthcare and Mevagissey Surgery patient newsletter.

Please visit our website, [www.staustellhealthcare.co.uk](http://www.staustellhealthcare.co.uk), or follow us on Facebook for more frequent updates.

### Covid Vaccination Clinics

We are proud to be one of three first wave vaccination sites in Cornwall, ensuring our patients have been amongst the first in the country to receive the vaccine. We are contacting patients when they are eligible for a vaccine, so please wait for us to contact you.

Huge thanks to all of the returning clinicians and the lovely volunteers, who have worked alongside all of our practice staff to ensure that the Covid vaccination clinics have run smoothly.



*Patient feedback: "I attended Carlyon House for my first Covid jab today and once again your organization, service and professionalism was first class. I was seen on time, had the jab from a very efficient practitioner and then shown to the large observation/waiting area to wait for 15 minutes just in case there was a reaction to the jab. I look forward to the second one in due course..."*

### Appointment Information

- The vaccination clinics are being held at Carlyon House. This is the building opposite the Polkyth Leisure Centre in St Austell. The postcode is PL25 4BX.
- You will be given a vaccination card at the first appointment, which you must bring to your second appointment.
- You should not drive for 15mins after the vaccination.
- Face masks must be worn.
- Please wear loose clothing so that the clinician can easily access the top of your arm.
- Most side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are mild and should not last longer than a week, such as: a sore arm where the needle went in, feeling tired, a headache, feeling achy, feeling or being sick. You can take painkillers, such as paracetamol, if you need to. If you have a high temperature you may have coronavirus or another infection.

### Housebound patients

We are carrying out home visits to offer Covid vaccination to housebound patients. Our staff will be visiting in pairs, and will carry ID. If you do have any concerns you can always ring the practice on 01726 75555, to check that these are our staff.

## Covid Vaccination FAQs

### Who is being vaccinated now?

Currently we can only vaccinate patients aged 70 and over, Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV's) patients, and health and social care workers. This includes all those in care homes and the housebound. Vaccination of the next priority group, those aged 65 or older will begin after 15<sup>th</sup> February.

### What vaccines are you using?

We are using both Pfizer (Pf) and Oxford Astra Zeneca Vaccine (OAZ).

### Can I choose which vaccine I get?

You will have no choice over the vaccine you receive, unless on medical grounds e.g. previous allergy/anaphylaxis. This is a national directive that we must follow.

### When will I receive my second dose?

You will not receive your second dose until 10-12 weeks after your first dose.

### I am a carer. When can I have my vaccine?

Carers, including those of housebound patients, are in priority group 6 unless their age allows them to be vaccinated earlier. The Government defines carers as those who are in receipt of a carer's allowance, or those who are the main carer of an elderly or disabled person whose welfare may be at risk if the carer falls ill.

### Which jobs can entitle you to a vaccine?

Health and social care workers are eligible, but must bring evidence of their employment to the vaccination clinic.

There is no category for essential workers, they are eligible to be vaccinated according to their age (at this stage). There is also no category for Front Line workers (e.g. police, fire brigade, etc.), unless they are Health or Social Care workers.

## Covid Vaccine Priority Groups

- ① Residents in a care home for older adults and their carers
- ② Everyone older than 80, and health and social care workers
- ③ All those 75 years of age and over
- ④ People over 70, those who shielded, adults with Down's syndrome
- ⑤ All those 65 years of age and over
- ⑥ At risk groups age 16-64, including carers
- ⑦ All those age 60 and over
- ⑧ All those age 55 and over
- ⑨ All those age 50 and over

For more information please visit [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)



## Message from the Partners

Thank you for all of your support during this busy time for the NHS. We are proud to be part of such a caring community.

Please remember that if you think your symptoms need urgent attention, we need to know about them so we can help. The safest way to contact the surgery is by phone (01726 75555) or using eConsult, a simple form on the practice website. By staying away from the surgery sites, unless attending an appointment, you are helping to fight Covid-19.