

COVID 19 VACCINATION CLINICS

There is a great deal of publicity and media coverage about the development of the vaccination against COVID 19.

The GP practices of Chester le Street are receiving high volumes of enquiries from patients as to when they can expect their appointment for the vaccination.

On behalf of the practices, Chester le Street Primary Care Network is working closely with NHS England and the NHS County Durham Clinical Commissioning Group: as expected, there are large amounts of information being received all of the time.

To help assure our patients and share information, this is what we know **at this time**:

- Patients will be contacted either by their GP practice or by a central booking service for NHS England.
- If you are contacted by your own GP this will be by mobile telephone, SMS text, telephone call or letter. **PLEASE help us by ensuring we have a correct and up-to-date mobile number.**
- If your GP has a mobile number for you, you will be able to book your own appointment by following a link in the text.

It is really important that if you wish to have the vaccination you respond immediately so the GPs can manage the clinic appointments so no appointment slots are left unused and no vaccinations are wasted.

- All clinics will be in one location in the Pelton area: the Pelton & Fellrose Branch Surgery site.
- For patients who receive a vaccination they will be given an appointment to return for a second vaccination 21 days later. **IT IS VITAL YOU HAVE BOTH VACCINATIONS.**

The first batch of vaccinations will be offered to some of the most vulnerable patients over 80 years of age.

At this time we do not have any other dates for vaccination deliveries.

Please DO NOT contact your GP practice to make an appointment for the vaccine unless you have received an invitation.

Dr R Bowron and Dr G Crackett
PCN Clinical Directors