



Ramsbury and Wanborough Surgery Newsletter

Since 1st July 2019, GP Practices have worked together in Primary Care Networks sharing expertise and resources over a wider geographical area. Ramsbury & Wanborough Surgery is part of the East Kennet Primary Care Network along with Kennet & Avon Medical Partnership, Great Bedwyn Surgery and Burbage Surgery totalling around 35,000 patients.

Since the Covid-19 pandemic reared its very ugly head, we have been working together as a PCN to deliver the Covid Vaccination Programme. To date, here at Ramsbury we have delivered over 14,000 vaccinations and across our PCN we have done well over 26,000. Our Team has been absolutely fantastic and we have managed to staff all our Clinics with our own staff (with Clinical and Administrative help from our neighbouring Practices) and one incredible Voluntary Vaccinator. Each individual Clinic takes hours to setup, searching to find “eligible” patients, sending out invitations, phoning patients, making sure appropriate staff are released from their usual “day job”, organising rotas and setting the room ready for patients to arrive.

We originally committed to vaccinating all our patients within Cohorts 1-9 and completed this ahead of schedule. We then decided to extend our involvement into the lower age groups as we felt we could continue to provide an efficient service within the same setting—and by now we had it down to a fine art! We have successfully vaccinated all of our elderly, vulnerable patients, their Carers, those with Additional Needs and those at High Clinical Risk.

More recently for the final younger Cohorts, the goal posts have changed and we are reverting back to being sent Pfizer vaccines which involves the 15 minute post-observation restriction which means our Clinics have to be slower due to the size of our waiting area. From 1st July, we are also being expected to return to “Business As Usual”, providing the contracted NHS services.

With this in mind, we do not believe the two can be done safely at the same time so we have decided that now is the right time to focus back on providing a full NHS service to our whole patient demographic and cease providing FIRST vaccinations for the future cohorts. The National Booking Service for Covid Vaccinations is now fully operational and it continues to grow with more and more sites being added every week for the younger age groups.

So now back to focussing on looking after you all and your “routine” health — NHS Health Checks are restarting along with gradually reopening Wanborough in the evenings. This has already started with reopening on Monday evenings. We will stay in contact with you all about any future Covid Vaccination Booster Programme — as yet we have no details on this.

We feel incredibly proud of what we have achieved over the last few months and we are ready to make this next move to returning some sort of normality within our Practice Team. Our staff are becoming increasingly fatigued with having worked so many extra hours in Covid Vaccination Clinics or providing backup for those staff who are redeployed into the Clinics. We would like to thank all those lovely patients who have had such a laugh with us in Clinic—we can honestly say on occasion, we’ve really needed those laughs and they’ve lifted our weary spirits! We’ve seen some amazing outfits and hysterical face masks, along with gorgeous donations of cakes and chocolates to keep us going!

Thank you to everyone for your support during these last few months and we all hope you keep fit and healthy over the Summer and manage to enjoy some sort of “freedom”.

From all of us at Ramsbury and Wanborough Surgery