

GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS RECEIVING VACCINATIONS

If you are being invited in for the following vaccinations; please read the following information carefully:

Flu Vaccination

The flu vaccine is recommended for all patients over the age of 65, or patients under the age of 65 who have illnesses such as diabetes, chronic breathing problems, stroke or heart problems, carers who live with infirm patients, or patients who are pregnant.

This year there are two different flu vaccinations available to adults. There is the adjuvated trivalent flu vaccine (aTIV) which is licensed for people aged 65 years and over and is nationally recommended for this age group. There is also the quadrivalent vaccine (QIV) which is recommended for children aged between 6 months to 2 years and in adults from 18 years to less than 65 years of age who fall into the clinical risk groups listed above.

We have also been asked to contact and vaccinate children aged 2 and 3. Older children may be having vaccinations at their school. We will also be contacting patients under the age of 18 who have any of the conditions outlined above. Patients between the ages of 2 and 18 will be offered the Fluenz vaccine which is a vaccine administered via the nasal route rather than the injectable form.

Patients who are allergic to egg will need to notify the practice in advance, so that the appropriate vaccine can be ordered and administered.

Pneumococcal Vaccination

The pneumococcal vaccination is normally administered to all children under the age of 2 as part of their normal vaccination schedule. Adults aged over 65 and adults with long-term health conditions similar to the ones outlined above are also recommended this vaccination.

Normally, this vaccination is only given once and no boosters are usually required.

Who Cannot Have Vaccines?

Vaccines can be given to the vast majority of patients but care has to be taken when:

1. The patient has a condition causing **severe** immune-suppression such as acute or chronic leukaemia, lymphoma or HIV/AIDs.
2. Any patient who is receiving treatment that would suppress immunity such as very **high-dose oral steroids** or rheumatological agents such as Humira. Patients who are having inhaled steroids such as inhalers or low-dose steroids can have the vaccination.
3. Patients who have had a severe reaction to a previous dose of a vaccination.
4. Any patient who has had a severe reaction to any component of the vaccine and, in particular, egg.

Patients who are taking Methotrexate, Azathioprine or Mercaptopurine for treatment of rheumatoid arthritis or psoriasis and other conditions **can** still have vaccinations

We will be displaying specific information with regards to these vaccinations in the waiting area and patients are encouraged to consult the NHS Choices website which contains detailed information on these vaccinations if they have any concerns.

Patients who have been called in for vaccination have been identified with computer searches and as ever, patients may have been missed by the searches. If you are aware of any patient registered at The Glenfield Surgery who has not received a letter and who may be eligible for vaccination, please ask them to contact reception where an assessment against the criteria can be made.