

The covid vaccination programme in North Hampshire has successfully delivered vaccines to our adult and more recently young adult population. The practices in North Hampshire have worked together through our site at Jameson house in Chineham (and previously the Hampshire Court Hotel) to do this.

As we move into Autumn, we start to prepare for a covid booster vaccination for those at greater risk. Current indications are that we will be offering a covid booster vaccine to our cohorts 1-9 (the over 50 and those with underlying health conditions). Importantly it is likely that we will be giving these covid boosters at least six months after your last vaccine and this will begin in September and run through until the new Year.

Many of our patients will also be due to receive flu vaccines around the same time as they would do every year from their home practice.

As we begin to start to welcome our patients back for their covid booster we are also planning to give them their flu jab at the same time at the same visit. The JCVI, who review the evidence for vaccination, support giving the two vaccines at the same time.

Therefore we can announce that if you are over 65 you will be receiving your flu jab at the same time as your covid booster appointment.

If you are under 65 you will likely be invited to a flu clinic sooner than when you would be due your covid booster and therefore your home practice will be organising a flu clinic for you as normal.

There are many benefits that we would see for giving the flu and covid vaccinations for our over 65s at the same time:

- A single visit for our over 65 patients to our site to receive both vaccinations
- Supporting practices by administering the flu vaccines on their behalf
- Sharing of flu vaccine between practices to reach those who are most vulnerable and ensuring we do this as quickly as we can.

We know that some patients will be used to and expecting to have their flu jab at their home practice. The North Hampshire Clinical directors feel by combining the flu and covid vaccines together this is the best way we can support our patients to get their vaccines efficiently and safely, whilst ensuring we can continue to deliver our normal primary care services to you without interruption.

The success of the initial vaccination programme was due to the practices working together to deliver it. By working together for the booster campaign we aim to replicate the very high uptake of vaccination and positive experience our patients have had through our site at Jameson House.