

Lapworth Surgery Patient Participation Group New Update 8 January 2021 (with update from doctors included)

As you will be aware, the programme to provide a COVID vaccine is underway around the country, and the same is true for Lapworth Surgery, as part of the Arden Primary Care Network. I am delighted to say today (Friday 8 January) we received our first supply of vaccines. This letter is designed to explain what has been set up, what you can expect to happen next and what you will have to do.

For those of you who are registered at the Surgery as housebound, a different system is in place and you will be contacted separately. Don't worry, you have not been forgotten!

I am pleased to say our local vaccination programme **will start from tomorrow 9 January**. As supplies will be limited to start with and because the Pfizer vaccine needs to be kept at -70 degrees, it can only be administered at a small number of centres. For our patients this will be Studley Village Hall, and the carpark to use is Pool Road (B80 7HJ). People will be placed in priority groups with the highest priority groups being the first to be vaccinated. In most cases this will be the over 90s first, followed by the over 80s then the over 75s. The plan for the Arden Primary Care Network is to ensure that everyone over 90 receives the injection in the first days along with as many of the over 80s as the supply of the vaccine will allow. Anyone over 80 who misses this round of the vaccinations will be top priority when the next batch of vaccines arrive.

In the coming days, those of you who have been identified to take part in this first round will receive a phone call or text inviting you to make contact with the team managing Studley village hall to arrange a time for your first vaccination. Please do reply to this.

Once you have made the appointment, you will need to decide how you are going to get there and back. The journey each way will take just under 30 minutes by car and you will be asked to wait 15 minutes after the injection before leaving the centre. It is therefore best to allow about 2 hours for the whole trip. Should you not be able to organise transport yourself please contact VASA Community Transport on transport@vasa.org.uk or call them on 01789 262889. They are an organisation which coordinates volunteer drivers for the whole Arden Primary Care Network.

Please note there will be a charge of 45p per mile to cover VASA volunteers' petrol costs of around £20 depending on where you live. If that is likely to cause you financial hardship please contact help@lapworthpc.org.uk or 01564 781360 who may be able to organise financial assistance via our local charity network.

All this information can be found on the surgery website lapworthsurgery.co.uk under the heading patient news. You can also [ring the surgery and press option 3](#) which will tell you all the latest news regarding our coronavirus vaccine. It will be regularly updated so please check frequently to ensure you are fully up to date with what is happening in our area.

Please do not contact the surgery doctors or receptionists directly since they will be unable to advise you because this vaccination process is not being administered by them but centrally by the South Warwickshire Federation.

Also please note the NHS and NHS England will NEVER ask for any bank details to secure an appointment or vaccination. Sadly, just as the vaccination programme is expanding so too are the scams so please be aware.