

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FROM STOCK HILL MEDICAL CENTRE

### COVID-19 vaccination programme update – 11.01.2021

Our patients at Stock Hill Medical Centre are part of Five Elms PCN. As a PCN, we have asked the Bromley GP Alliance to run the Covid vaccination programme on our behalf. The Alliance is also rolling out the vaccinations for most of the other PCNs within Bromley.

Before Christmas, sites were allocated vaccination deliveries in “waves”, agreed by the CCG. Locally, only Orpington and one PCN in Beckenham have so far begun their vaccinations, as they were able to use NHS buildings that were already set up and being used for patient care.

Our patients will be vaccinated to begin with at Community House – this is a non-NHS building in central Bromley that has required a lot of setting up in order to make it safe to be used as a vaccination centre. Patients from two other PCNs within the borough will also be asked to attend this site.

It was initially thought that Bromley GP Alliance could use St Marks Church Hall, but it is not feasible to try and set up so many non-NHS buildings at the same time. The Alliance decided that it would be quicker to get one site fully operational before opening others. The Alliance have not been assigned any additional staff to use for this vaccination programme; they are dependant on GP surgery staff working extra hours to cover the clinics as well as working in their own surgeries.

Our patients are now being called by Bromley GP Alliance and asked to make an appointment at Community House.

This week, the Government have also opened up several mass vaccination centres across the country in order to try and speed up the vaccination process and, we understand, has sent out letters to patients already. Each patient can decide whether they would rather wait until they are contacted by the Alliance, or whether they prefer to attend one of these mass vaccination centres some distance away, in order to have their vaccination sooner. If patients choose not to go to a mass vaccination site, they can wait to be called for the local clinic. Across the country patients have been contacting their MPs about this issue as it was not clear on letters from the NHS that if they didn't go to the large sites they would not get another chance.

Please be assured that all patients WILL be contacted in due course. At the Alliance, staff are working as hard as they can to get this vaccination rolled out to as many patients as possible and as soon as is feasible.

Thank you for your patience.

Stock Hill Medical Centre