# COVID-19 Vaccination - Frequently Asked Questions

**Who is currently eligible?**

The first **patient** group to receive the COVID-19 vaccination are patients over 80 years of age on Wednesday the 16th December 2020.

**When will I be vaccinated?**

We have over 3000 patients eligible for vaccine in the first cohorts. We have been allocated only 975 vaccinations in Wave One but anticipate more stock will be forthcoming. We will keep you updated as and when more stock arrives.

**Where will I be vaccinated?**

The designated site for Chippenham Corsham and Box as agreed by NHS England, is Rowden Surgery Rowden Hill Chippenham SN15 2SB

Staff from all five local practices, Box, Hathaway, Lodge, Porch and Rowden will be working at the vaccination site.

**How do I book an appointment?**

Your usual surgery will invite you to book for your appointment, please do not call until you have received your invitation as there are strict national priority groups. You will need two appointments **approx.. 12 weeks** apart.

## What if I cannot attend my second appointment?

In order to achieve maximum immunity, it is imperative that you attend your 2nd appointment.

## Do I have a choice?

We hope our patients will want to be vaccinated but you can choose whether you are vaccinated or not. We have enclosed information to allow you to make an informed choice.

**How do I prepare for my appointment?**

1. Come alone if possible.
2. If you are able, **please wear a face mask or face covering**.
3. It will help us if you wear clothing that gives **easy access to your upper arm**.
4. We are trying to limit use of our toilets, so if possible, go before you leave home.
5. Do not bring unnecessary bags or belongings into the building.
6. You are required to wait at the practice for observation for 15 minutes post vaccination, please wear a warm coat as this will be in socially distanced tents in the Rowden staff car park
7. Please bring any walking aids with you – there will be an approximate 50 meter walk through the practice, if you feel that this will be challenge please let someone on the door know on arrival

**What if I have symptoms of COVID-19?**

**Do not attend your appointment if you have any COVID-19 symptoms** (temperature above normal, a new continuous cough, a loss or change to your sense of taste or smell). If you are able, cancel by calling your own GP practice. When you have recovered and completed the required isolation period, please rebook your appointment.

**What if I have other symptoms?**

**Do not attend your appointment**. If you are able, cancel your appointment by calling your own surgery

**How will you keep me safe while at my appointment?**

During the vaccination delivery we will maintain the range of measures we have in place to keep our staff and residents safe from COVID-19. Staff giving the vaccine will be wearing personal protective equipment and will abide by all our cleaning and disinfection requirements.

Temperatures will be taken on arrival for all visitors.

**Will I be able to park?**

We are aiming to vaccinate nearly 500 patients a day. This will put pressure on parking spaces.

There is off street parking and a patient car park.

If you have no mobility issues, we ask that you consider the off street parking. This will leave parking spaces for patients with mobility issues.

**Departure**

The vaccine guidance specifies that patients will not be able to drive for 15 minutes after the vaccine has been administered. A covered, heated waiting area will be provided in the car park. If you have been dropped off by someone in your bubble, we will be happy to contact them when you are ready to be collected. (please make sure you have their contact number)

**How long will I wait?**

We will be working as quickly as we possibly can be mindful of social distancing and vaccine requirements. We hope to keep queues to a minimum but please do come prepared for inclement weather.

To avoid long queues, you should aim to arrive at the building entrance **no more than five minutes before your appointment time**. When in the queue please maintain social distancing.

Whilst we aim to keep to schedule, we will give priority to those with a disability and invite them in on arrival (subject to capacity). This may mean a slight delay for some.

**Will I be safe?**

We are following all government advice to keep our patients and ourselves safe. We will be operating a one-way system through the building, with staff on hand to provide guidance and assistance.

**I have a Carer for someone in this cohort, can they have the vaccine?**

Unfortunately not. Carers will be recalled at a later date.

**Further information**

There is a video on our website that walks through what you can expect when attending Rowden surgery for your vaccination appointment. Please contact your usual practice should you have any additional questions