

A Message from The Grove Medical Centre

COVID CLINICS IN SHERBORNE

What you need to know

Our focus is clearly on delivering COVID vaccination clinics to the people of Sherborne and ensuring they are run both safely and efficiently.

Subject to the availability of anti-COVID vaccines we have been holding regular clinics at the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne, next to the library.

Please wait to be contacted by your surgery for an appointment. This will be by an SMS text message or by telephone.

Please ensure that your surgery has your latest contact details so we can get in touch with you.

By the middle of February we had vaccinated over 7500 patients. This has included frontline health care staff at the Yeatman Hospital, local care homes, opticians and dentists, and staff from care agencies.

That said, it looks like we are going to see a slowdown in vaccine supply over the next few weeks. This is caused by vaccine production not keeping up with demand and also planning and logistics to ensure that we can give our patients their second doses in the 12th week.

We have received offers of support from former clinical staff, which have retrained in order to give vaccinations. This is helping us to staff vaccination clinics. As these clinics will be running for many months it is a challenge to be managed.

CHANGES AT THE SURGERY

Our everyday work continues

The practice continues to operate as before with a telephone triage system for GP appointments and face-to-face appointments for all blood tests or other necessary procedures. Long-term condition management, is mainly being carried out through telephone consultations for asthma, diabetes and COPD.

Nursing appointments for vaccinations, wound care and cervical smears continue face to face within our COVID safe practices.

As we are in lockdown, we have postponed some of our routine care such as general monitoring, where it is safe to push this back a month or so. All necessary precautions are being taken for anyone needing to be seen. This also allows us to release workforce to staff for the vaccination clinics.

Volunteers help to manage patient safety and throughput at the Sherborne Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic

Both the Grove and Apples PPGs and local NHS Social Prescribers are working with Sherborne Town Council to ensure the smooth and safe running of Sherborne's COVID-19 vaccination clinics held at the Digby Hall, Hound Street. Subject to the availability of vaccines clinics will be held on a regular basis. Again our local community has risen to the challenge and over fifty volunteers have been recruited to help with patient registration, parking and pedestrian safety.



You Ask ~ We Answer

Covid-19 vaccinations in full swing

Note: The Clinic is at the Digby Hall, Hound Street, Sherborne DT9 3AA.

Is the NHS confident the vaccines are safe?

Yes. The MHRA, the official UK regulator, have said that both of these vaccines have good safety profiles and offer a high level of protection, and we have full confidence in their expert judgement and processes.

Can I be sure I will receive the correct second vaccine?

Yes – your records will ensure you will.

My spouse / partner hasn't been offered an appointment and I have - do we have to isolate from each other?

No – as long as you remain in the same bubble and observe the lockdown rules you should be safe.

Will the vaccines work with the new strain?

There is no evidence currently that the new strain will be resistant to the vaccines we have, so we are continuing to vaccinate people as normal.

Why are you postponing second doses?

So that more people can get their first dose quickly. The evidence shows that one dose offers a high level of protection. This decision allows the NHS to maximum benefit to more people in the shortest possible time and help save lives.

Should people who have already had COVID get vaccinated?

The MHRA have decided getting vaccinated is just as important for those who have already had COVID19 as it is for those who haven't.

Can I get one privately?

No. Vaccinations will only be available through the NHS for the moment. **Anyone who claims to be able to provide you with a vaccine for a fee is likely to be committing a crime and should be reported to the Police online or by calling 112.**

Can people pick what vaccine they want?

No. All vaccines provided by the NHS have been approved after passing the MHRA's tests on safety and efficacy. Patients should be assured whatever vaccine they get, it is worth their while.

Can any member of the public be vaccinated?

People will need an appointment to get their vaccine; most will be invited by letter from their GP practice or the national programme.

Can they just walk in to a service?

No. People will be offered vaccinations in line with recommendations from the independent JCVI. The NHS will contact people when it is their turn.

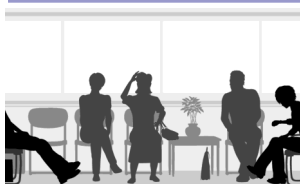
Shall I wait to be contacted?

Yes. The NHS will get in touch when it's your turn to be vaccinated.

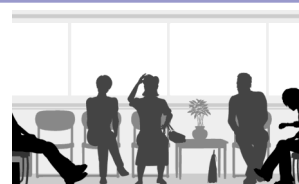
What can I do to help support the programme?

We'd be grateful for your support in sharing these key messages:

- please don't contact the NHS to seek a vaccine, we will contact you;
- when we do contact you, please attend your booked appointments;
- and please continue to follow all the guidance to control the virus and save lives.



A View from the Waiting Room



Getting my jab.....

I was strangely nervous when I went for my Covid vaccination, not about the jab, but about silly things. Have I got the right day? Will my name still be on the list? What if it's at the other Digby Hall? Will we find a place to park?

Well I needn't have worried, as all the stress was taken away the moment we turned into the huge car park. Lovely parking attendants, smiling even in the drizzle. My husband and I were shown to a parking space and were greeted at the door. We immediately went to one of the desks in the lobby which had signs with surnames labelled A-B, C-E etc. Pretty foolproof so far! At the desk we were checked in and given a helpful leaflet.



We were then ushered through into the main hall and turned left to have one of the Grove Practice doctors greet us, ask a few questions and show us to one of the four or five vaccination booths, screened off and with nurses waiting. The jab was given without any fuss and we made our way to the socially distanced (how I'm getting to dislike that word!) seats in front of us. There was simply no way anyone, even me, could get confused. I felt as if I had been given the elixir of life!

Good humour abounded. Some dutifully read their leaflet explaining every possible question one might have about the process, some just sat quietly, some recognised friends and gave a cheery wave. Then we departed, full of admiration and gratitude. I was amused by a sign on the way out which said something like "Please don't hang around in the car park!"

I find I am hesitant to tell anyone that I have been 'Done' as many friends of my age in other parts of the country have not yet been notified. It seems that we are fortunate living where we do and having such an efficient and well-organised medical practice. 600 local people had been vaccinated with the Covid vaccine by the end of that day!

My heartfelt thanks to the whole team, and to the many volunteers who took part.

Joan Cooper Patient, The Grove Medical Centre



Volunteers at the Sherborne Covid-19 Vaccination Clinic

Opening Times

| | |
|-----------|---------------|
| Monday | 08:00 - 18:30 |
| Tuesday | 08:00 - 18:30 |
| Wednesday | 08:00 - 18:30 |
| Thursday | 08:00 - 18:30 |
| Friday | 08:00 - 18:30 |
| Weekend | closed |

Ways to contact us:

You can book an appointment by:

Calling the practice to speak to a Patient Services Adviser between 08:00 and 18:30 Monday to Friday.

Online booking is available for routine appointments with your GP using the new NHS App or your current online login. If you don't have a login or have forgotten your login details, then please speak to the patient services team.

Using the 'e-Consult' service for advice, administration queries or to have an online conversation with your GP.

If you need to contact a doctor outside these hours then you should ring the Out of Hours Service on 111, unless it is a medical emergency then dial 999.

Dispensary open for prescription collections between 08:30 - 18:30. If you want to order repeat medication by telephone please ONLY call between 08:30 - 12:00 daily.

The Practice Team

Dr Nick Berry

Dr Ruth Lawes

Dr Matt Phelan

Dr Rob Childs (Senior Partner)

Dr Liz Long

Dr Katie Thomas

Mrs Alex Kimber (Managing Partner)

Dr Sally Dangerfield

Dr Charlie Middle

Know your General Practitioners



Dr Sally Dangerfield

Dr Dangerfield graduated from Birmingham Medical School in 1992 and joined the Army until 2006 as a GP. She moved to Dorset in 2008 and joined the practice in September 2015.

Dr Lawes graduated from Bristol University in 1996 and spent several years working as a GP in North Somerset before relocating further south. She joined the practice in 2011.



Dr Ruth Lawes

NEW PATIENT PARTICIPATION GROUP MEMBERS

We welcome two new Sherborne Girls pupils – Arabella Lambeth and Emily Woods together with David Crothers as new members to our PPG team.

Arabella and Emily are 6th year pupils who plan to study medicine. David is retired after working 34 years in the Royal Navy and 11 years for BAE Systems. He lives locally and is Deputy Chair of Folke Parish Council.

Recruitment

We are looking to recruit an additional part time GP. In the interim, Dr Chris Cleaver will be doing an additional day a week and we welcomed a new locum during February. We are also recruiting to our entry-level dispensary assistant post.

Your Patient Participation Group (PPG)

Interested in finding out how your GP practice works and about the health services it delivers? Your practice Patient Participation Group (PPG) could be for you. See: <https://www.dorsetccg.nhs.uk/involve/ppg>