

An update on the Vaccination Programme – 28th January:

So far 1,473 Steyning Medical Practice patients have received their vaccine - this is 87% of the over 80s (12% of their entire patient list).

They aim to have vaccinated all patients aged 80+ with their first dose by the end of January and will soon be moving on to the 75-79 years category. Please be assured if you are in these age brackets, you will receive an invite. Housebound patients will also be receiving contact in the next couple of weeks to schedule their vaccines, so please also be assured that you have not been forgotten.

The Brighton Centre Vaccination Site, offering an appointment service, is now open for all patients in Sussex living within 60 miles of the address, which includes Steyning & District. Some local pharmacies are also offering an appointment system. Both of these are systems are administered via the NHS Booking Service. These new services are in addition to, and working alongside, the GP led vaccination centre at Storrington.

The NHS Booking service will write to eligible people offering an appointment at this new Brighton Centre. You are strongly encouraged to accept and attend. All detail regarding the process will be in the letter. No vaccination can be given without an appointment. Free Parking will be available adjacent to the Centre

The eligible category remain the same for the Brighton Centre as for Storrington. They are:

80 and over

People who live or work in care homes

Frontline health and social workers.

Vaccine can also now be offered to people over 70 and the clinically extremely vulnerable. This is to ensure that all vaccination appointment slots are filled.

You can decide not to take up the Brighton offer. You will then remain on your GP list to vaccinate and will need to wait until you are contacted, via phone, by Storrington for an appointment. However, this may take time, whereas the Brighton option aims to be quicker.

You might also receive one invitation to book through Storrington and another to book at the Brighton Centre. If received, you are able to choose which is most convenient.

No appointments can be booked directly with any of the Centres, so please wait to receive your invitation. For Storrington the invitation will be via a telephone call and for Brighton, by letter. With regard to our own Steyning Medical Practice, please do not telephone re Vaccine enquiries. They can tell you no more than is listed within this email. These calls are blocking patients ringing for medical help and doctors appointment. The special Vaccine Help Line – 01903 651150 – can be telephoned where you will find regular updates on the vaccine programme.

Please wait for your phone call/letter to book an appointment, and do all that you can to take up the appointment, when offered it. It is so, so important.

Those with difficulties travelling to Storrington please advise at time of appointment booking. You will then be given a number to telephone to make arrangements. It is not known if Brighton has similar help, so you need to enquire about this when booking.

Some patients who have already received their vaccine may still receive an invite to go to the Brighton Centre. Apologies for this, and please ignore the letter.

Useful links below for more information.

Helpful pointers on the vaccine programme:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ame-eJ4RUSU>

Brighton Vaccination Centre and what to expect, plus a short film:

<https://www.sussexcommunity.nhs.uk/news/covid-19-vaccinations-brighton-centre/213610>