**Flu Vaccinations Winter 2021 Frequently Asked Questions**

1. Who is eligible for a flu vaccination?
* Anyone over the age of 50 years old, or who will turn 50 before 31st March 2021
* People aged 18 to 50 who have certain medical conditions, such as: asthma, COPD, heart failure, diabetes, a weakened immune system due to disease or current treatment
* Pregnant women
* All children aged 2 to 15 (but not 16 years or older) on 31 August 2021
* those in long-stay residential care homes
* carers
* close contacts of immunocompromised individuals
* frontline health and social care staff

If you are aged 50-65 and do not have a medical condition that puts you at increased risk from flu, we ask you book one of our later clinics to ensure those who are at highest risk can get their vaccination earlier.

1. When are the clinics?

Saturday 18th September – Cerne Abbas Village Hall (For patients aged 65 and over only)

Monday 11th October – The Green Man, King’s Stag

Friday 22nd October – Cerne Abbas Village Hall

Wednesday 27th October – Piddle Valley First School

Sunday 14th November – Cerne Abbas Village Hall (For patients aged UNDER 65 only)

1. Do I need to book an appointment?

Yes! If you have not pre-booked an appointment slot, you will not receive a vaccine.

1. How to I book and appointment?

Please use the online service, available by logging in to your SystmOnline account via our website ([www.cerneabbassurgery.co.uk](http://www.cerneabbassurgery.co.uk)).
If you genuinely cannot use the online service due to a lack of internet, please call reception. You will have a much greater choice of appointment times if you use the online service, and you will be helping to keep our phone lines clear for those who need to book other appointments.

1. What if I can’t attend the clinic dates on offer?
We have a variety of dates, times, and venues available. We are unlikely to be able to offer vaccinations outside of the set clinics due to our appointment availability and vaccine allocation.
2. Can I come to the surgery for my flu jab (adults)?
No! We need to ensure our limited appointment availability is reserved for those who need medical treatment.
3. My child needs a flu vaccine, how do I book this?

We will arrange a specific clinic for children when the vaccine arrives, and you will be contacted to arrange the appointment.

1. How will I be notified if my appointment has to be cancelled?
We will attempt to communicate via text message if we have to make any changes to your booked vaccine slot. If you have not given us a mobile number, or declined text messaging, we will contact you via telephone. We suggest you provide us with a mobile number and permission to text to help us contact you quicker.
2. Is it safe for me to attend a community venue?
Yes. We will be ensuring the venue is clean and COVID-secure. Social distancing will be in place whilst you queue. GPs and nurses will be in PPE. Volunteer marshals will be helping to manage the queues.
3. Do I need to wear a face covering to attend the flu clinic?
Yes, a face covering is required to protect our staff, volunteers, and other patients in the building. If you are exempt and genuinely cannot wear a mask for the vaccination, tell the volunteer on arrival who will arrange for a member of staff to speak to you.
4. Does the flu jab work?
The flu jab is effective against the predicted circulating strains of influenza for this winter. The vaccine can take up to 2 weeks to become effective in your system.
5. I always feel ill and get the flu after I have had the flu jab, should I have it this year?
You cannot get the flu from the flu jab. However it is possible to get mild symptoms as your body develops antibodies. This is a normal side effect.
6. I am housebound, how will I get my flu jab?

If you meet the Housebound criteria for having a home visit flu jab, the nursing team will contact you to arrange a visit when they have capacity.

1. Can I get a flu vaccine elsewhere?
Yes, you can have the vaccine at various community pharmacies. If you are not eligible on the NHS for the vaccine, you can pay for one. Further details are available by contacting the pharmacies directly.
2. What should I wear to the clinic?
Please wear a loose, short sleeved top to your appointment. The vaccine is administered to the TOP of your arm, just below the shoulder, so we must be able to get to that part of the body. Please note you will be vaccinated in a public venue so dressing appropriately is essential to preserve your modesty.
3. I have had a positive COVID-19 test, should I still have my flu jab?

Current guidance states that if you have had a positive COVID test in the last 28 days, you should delay your flu vaccine. Please book an appointment after the 28-day period.

1. Does the flu jab protect me against COVID-19?

No, the flu jab does not contain protect against COVID-19. However, being protected against flu is still important and helps protect the NHS.

1. Can I have the COVID-19 booster at the same time as my flu jab?
No. You should wait at least 7 days between having a COVID-19 vaccine and any other vaccine.