**COVID-19 VACCINATION 2020**

Dear <<title>> <<surname>>

We are delighted to announce that Chapeltown Primary Care Network will be delivering the COVID-19 vaccination programme to our patients. This includes patients registered at Allerton Medical Centre (including Westfield Medical Centre), Chapeltown Family Surgery, St Martins Practice and Woodhouse Medical Practice. It is planned for us to receive 975 doses of the Pfizer vaccination on Monday 4 January 2021 and we will be ready to administer these vaccines between Tuesday 5 – Thursday 7 January 2021. These dates are not yet confirmed so there is a chance that they may change.

All vaccination clinics will take place at Woodhouse Medical Practice, Cambridge Road, LS6 2SF. This is because the vaccine is very fragile so we can not move it away from this site.

**Why is this vaccine so important?**

COVID-19 is caused by a new coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2. It was first identified in late 2019. It is very infectious and can lead to severe respiratory disease. Many people who are infected may not have any symptoms or only have mild symptoms. These commonly start with cough, fever, headache and loss of taste or smell. Some people will feel very tired, have aching muscles, sore throat, diarrhoea and vomiting, fever and confusion. A small number of people then go on to have severe disease which may require hospitalisation or admission to intensive care. Overall, fewer than 1 in 100 people who are infected will die from COVID-19, but in those over 75 years of age this rises to 1 in 10. There is no cure for COVID-19 although some newly tested treatments do help to reduce the risk of complications.

**Who should have the vaccine?**

The Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI), an independent expert group, has recommended that the NHS offers these vaccines first to those at highest risk of catching the infection and of suffering serious complications if they catch the infection.

This includes older adults, frontline health and social care workers, care home residents and staff, and those with certain clinical conditions. When more vaccine becomes available, the vaccines will be offered to other people at risk as soon as possible.

**YOU HAVE BEEN SELECTED AS SOMEONE WHO WOULD BENEFIT MOST FROM THE VACCINE**

**What do I need to do now?**

It is important that you read that the Frequently Asked Questions enclosed with this letter, before your appointment. By consenting you will be playing your part in protecting our community from catching and spreading COVID-19.

To book an appointment, please call your usual practice number from **Wednesday 16 December 10am onwards** and select the option to be transferred to our Covid advice and booking line.  If the lines are busy, there will be an answerphone for you to leave your details. We will call you back as soon as we can.

**Where do I find out more?**

Information about COVID-19 vaccines is available at: [www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation](https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/immunisation)

[www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine](http://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/coronavirus-vaccine)

**I am unable to get to Woodhouse Medical Centre, LS6 2SF. What do I do?**

Please let us know if you can not get to the site. As soon as a different vaccine is licenced and available that can be transported more easily, we will contact all housebound patients and those who could not get to the vaccination site to make suitable arrangements.

This an exciting time for staff and our community.  We look forward to seeing you for your vaccination and anticipate a healthy and happy 2021!

Warm regards,

**Dr Hector-Goma & Dr Hossain-Ibrahim**