



# SPCT Practices Patient Newsletter

## March 2021

### Welcome

Dear Patients,

Welcome to next edition of the patient newsletter.

### COVID

We are currently in a National Lockdown. This is due to continue with restrictions hopefully being fully lifted in June 2021.

This has led to delays in your care at the hospitals for your onward care. All our local hospitals have halted routine work, and once the restrictions are lifted will be working hard to rectify this. If you have been waiting for appointments and are not sure if you have been referred by us, please check with the access and booking departments of the relevant hospital to check about the status of these appointments, however, as the time of writing these services have been witnessing significant delays and waiting times can be long.

Many people have been added to the list of those needing to shield and will have received a letter telling them to do so. Unfortunately the surgeries had no part in this, but the decision has been worked out on an algorithm of health problems, age, BMI, ethnicity and post code etc. We do not have access to this, so if you have received such a letter and are unsure we unfortunately cannot answer this.

If you are shielding and struggling with loneliness, shopping, getting medication, walking your dog, needing advice on benefits, or attending the hospital for any reason please contact the Spirit of Salford helpline on : **0800 952 1000** (Monday to Friday 8.30am to 6pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm) or via this website :

<https://www.salford.gov.uk/spiritofsalford>

Please check the latest covid guidance here:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/coronavirus-covid-19-list-of-guidance>

If you have symptoms of fever, cough, loss of taste or smell, and shortness of breath, or a combination of any of these please call 119 to arrange a test, including for your children. You need to self-isolate for 10 days if you have symptoms and for 14 days if you live with someone who has symptoms.

## Coronavirus Vaccination Programme

In Salford this is being delivered by the NHS directly to all patients. You will be contacted directly informing you when and where to attend. There are currently two vaccines being used. Both currently require 2 doses, for full protection it has been shown it is essential you attend for this second dose. For information on these vaccines PLEASE DO NOT contact the surgery. We do not have stock of the vaccines, or have control over how and when people are invited by the central NHS in Salford. You will be contacted directly.

At the time of writing this all those in priority groups 1-8 have been sent invitations for the vaccination centres in Salford and the region.

Subject to vaccine supplies the government has pledged to offer the first vaccine dose to:

- The first 4 priority groups by 15 February 2021.
- [Priority groups 1-9 by May 2021 and all adults by September 2021.](#)

The following have been classed as the priority groups.

Priority	Risk group
1	Residents in a care home for older adults and staff working in care homes for older adults
2	All those 80 years of age and over and frontline health and social care workers
3	All those 75 years of age and over
4	All those 70 years and over and clinically extremely vulnerable individuals (not including pregnant women and those under 16 years of age)
5	All those 65 years of age and over
6	Adults aged 16-65 years in an at-risk group ( <a href="#">see clinical conditions</a> )
7	All those 60 years of age and over
8	All those 55 years and over
9	All those 50 years and over
10	Rest of the population (to be determined)

Once you have received your invitation you can book into a site for your vaccine. There are large vaccination sites in Clarendon, Eccles, and Irlam running, and now a pop up vaccination centre open in Little Hulton. In addition there is the Etihad, and sites near the Reebok Stadium in Bolton. When you are using the website be sure to refresh a number of times until you can see a venue that is suitable for your needs. You can access the website here:

<https://salford.nhsvaccinations.co.uk/>

If you cannot access the internet or think you may require a home visit please call: 0800 953 0116

## General updates:

### Welcome.....

Welcome Dr Catrin Herbert who will be joining our Eccles Team as Clinical Lead.

Welcome to Megan our new Medical Receptionist!

**Medical students:** SPCT believe in investing in the next generation of clinicians to help care for our community. We are a training practice and your initial contact may be with a student. Students are closely supervised by our regular clinicians. If you would rather NOT speak to a student, please let our care navigators know when you make contact. We thank you for participating in training the next generation

**Attending SPCT Practices:** We have remained open throughout COVID; however, our receptions have had to remain closed as per NHS England advice. If you require help or assistance please contact the surgery on 0161-983-0600 or use our fantastic new website [www.spctpractices.co.uk](http://www.spctpractices.co.uk). On our new website you can leave a message for a clinician, including doctors and nurses, update your registration details, request medication, or have an online consultation. There is no queue for this and we will have a response to you quickly. So beat the queue and use the webpage.

If you are invited to attend the surgery please wear a face mask, and you will be ask to sanitise your hands on entering the building.

**Feedback:** We must thank a number of patients who have left some good positive feedback recently. Providing care during these difficult times has been very difficult and your positive kind words have been greatly appreciated.

We are able to receive feedback in a variety of ways, via our SPCT Website, Facebook, Google Business Page and NHS Choices

The Leadership Team