



SALV HEALTH TRUST

Shere and Local Villages Health Trust
Charity Registration No 1016023

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Dear SALV Supporter

Covid Vaccination Update

I thought it might be helpful to update you on where we are in getting the Covid vaccinations we all are so keenly waiting for.

I had a very useful conversation with Dr Emma Watts yesterday which helps us know where we are.

It is frankly a frustrating mess, with the surgery as frustrated as we all are, and the picture painted on the news is sadly very different from what we are experiencing on the ground.

The Pfizer vaccine is currently only available at the Royal Surrey County Hospital, and then only for medical staff and paramedics and patients who are over 80 and who happen to be there for other reasons. We are all aware of the logistical problems of the storage of the Pfizer Vaccine and making sure that once it is used all 1000 doses in one batch have to be used within 3 days. Shere Surgery is part of a group of surgeries who tried to identify suitable venues. Eventually the NHSE authorised a church in Haslemere and a few of our patients have received their first dose, but due to logistical problems that venue no longer operates. Another venue in Cranleigh has been put forward, it is due to go live shortly.

The reality is that for Shere Surgery the AstraZeneca vaccine will be the most appropriate and practical vaccine to be used. For this 2 things have to happen. Firstly the NHS need to offer Shere Surgery a formal contract to do the vaccinations, and secondly the vaccines themselves need to be delivered.

There is also another side issue. The Surgery has recognised that the way in which they can vaccinate the most people in the shortest time is to dedicate two hours from the normal working day every Monday to Friday. The NHSE have to approve of the principle of part of the surgery's working day being diverted to carrying out the vaccinations. Until now the NHS has strongly resisted this, but there are some signs that this could be sanctioned.

The Surgery is champing at the bit and ready to start vaccinations literally tomorrow, it has plenty of space to store the AstraZeneca vaccines. Once authorised, assuming the supply of the vaccine can keep up with them, they would anticipate being able to vaccinate everyone of their patients over 50 in 4- 6 weeks – clearly longer if they can only use Saturdays.

If you are expecting to be high on the priority list I am assured that you do not need to stay rooted to your phone – if by any chance when the Surgery does call you and you are unable to answer the call, they will keep trying until you do!

This is both extremely frustrating from the point of view of the NHS bureaucracy, but encouraging that once it does start we should make good progress quickly.

Please do share this information locally and reassure your neighbours and friends that the delays are not of the surgery's making, but in contrast they are trying to move heaven and earth to get this under way.

As ever if you have any specific queries I am happy to relay these back to the Surgery.

PS Dr Watts has just updated me, and I quote her verbatim so that you can see her raw sense of frustration

'NHSE have just said: 'Primary care services should continue as normal, although we are also currently reviewing guidance and contracts to support prioritisation of activity in primary care, given the multiple pressures, and will share an update this week.'

This is a disaster if they are seriously going to hold us to a contract where every verruca needs seeing despite the pandemic, despite our stressed and overloaded workforce, with me needing to ask our staff to do all the Covid vaccine as overtime when they are all tired, having had cancelled Bank Holidays and annual leave, having minimally seen their families and suffered deaths of colleagues elsewhere. I'm furious, if you can't tell!

Our staff will do Saturdays if we ask, I know they will. Can't ask them to do Sundays too or they will all burnout.

I haven't given up on finding a way to make weekdays work though because it would be better for staff morale and we will get through more per week at 2 hours a day, than doing every Saturday.'

Please give the Surgery all the moral support you can - these are very stressful times for them all

Adrian O'Loughlin (Chairman)

**Trustees: Lesley Austin, Tim Austin, Jonathan Cross,
Terry Edwards (Treasurer), Helen Esplen, ,
Adrian O'Loughlin (Chairman), Pat Webb.**

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