

Weekly digest

Monday 15 February 2021

Regular briefing for General Practices across NW London

The priority note for general practice in this week's digest is:

Covid-19 NW London and vaccinations

- We are extremely proud to announce that we have met the national vaccination target across NW London, vaccinating over 80% of all residents and providing protection for people in the top four priority groups; those aged 70 and over, care home residents and staff, the extremely clinically vulnerable and NHS staff.
- The uptake in our boroughs has been fantastic with almost 400,000 residents being vaccinated; which means our most vulnerable residents now have a level of protection against this virus.
- We would like to thank colleagues across NW London for the fantastic work that has been carried out to vaccinate so many people in such a short time.
- From today over 65s and people in 'at risk' groups will begin to be invited for their vaccination either at a vaccination centre, local pharmacy or through their GP.
- People who receive a letter can book an appointment in a large scale vaccination centre or a pharmacy on the national booking system or by calling 119 free of charge, anytime between 7am and 11pm seven days a week.
- GP led vaccination centres will initially focus on people in the clinically 'at risk' group such as those with long term conditions to support continuity of care.
- We would encourage anyone in the over 70's age group who hasn't been vaccinated or received an invite from the NHS to speak to their GP or visit the [national booking system](#) or calling 119 to book an appointment
- Many questions have been asked about if the vaccines work with the new strains. There is no evidence currently that the new strains will be resistant to the vaccines we have, so we are continuing to vaccinate people as normal.

Scientists are looking now in detail at the characteristics of the virus in relation to the vaccines. Viruses, such as the winter flu virus, often branch into different strains but these small variations rarely make vaccines ineffective.