

Dear Patient

**National change to the COVID vaccine roll out
POSTPONEMENT OF YOUR NEXT VACCINATION
APPOINTMENT**

Thank you for attending for your first dose of the COVID Vaccine, you were given the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine when you attended.

On the 30th December 2020, GP Practices received updated advice regarding the roll out of COVID vaccines; this was that the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) have extended the 2nd dose period from the original 3-4 weeks follow up to 12 weeks. The new medical advice is that the second dose of the vaccine remains effective when given up to 12 weeks after the first dose, and should be given towards the end of this 12 week period.

Taking both vaccines into consideration, the four UK Chief Medical Officers have determined that:

"...Prioritising the first doses of vaccine for as many people as possible on the priority list will protect the greatest number of at risk people overall in the shortest possible time and will have the greatest impact on reducing mortality, severe disease and hospitalisations and in protecting the NHS and equivalent health services. Operationally this will mean that second doses of both vaccines will be administered towards the end of the recommended vaccine dosing schedule of 12 weeks."

They recognise that this will mean we need to reschedule second doses for most of our current first dose recipients, but for the reasons set out today by JCVI and the CMOs, doing so should substantially improve individual and population-level protection against COVID-19 over the next 3 months.

Above extract taken from the press statement published by the Department of Health and Social Care on 30.12.20 full article can be

- 📍 Bewdley Medical Centre
- 📍 Church Street Surgery
- 📍 Hagley Surgery
- 📍 Kidderminster Medical Centre
- 📍 Stourport Health Centre
- 📍 York House Medical Centre

found here - <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/statement-from-the-uk-chief-medical-officers-on-the-prioritisation-of-first-doses-of-covid-19-vaccines>

While you will need two doses of the vaccine to get the best long-term protection from the virus, you will still have significant protection at 22 days after you received the first dose. The new guidance will also help ensure that as many people as possible benefit from the first dose of the vaccine as soon as possible. Please be reassured that there are no safety concerns in the new guidance, and it will not impact on how effective the vaccination is in protecting you from Covid-19 once the course is complete.

We are really sorry for any upset or inconvenience this will cause you. The guidance from officials is changing frequently and we as practices are having to constantly adapt to the latest instructions. That being said this is latest information as of today and we will be in touch should we need to inform you of anymore changes with the vaccines.

Please do not attend for your second dose of the vaccine as originally arranged on the 5th/6th/7th January.

The team organising these clinics have advised us that patients are likely to be contacted to come back in March and we will be in touch to make sure this appointment is arranged for you.

You do not need to call us. We will contact you to reschedule your second vaccine appointment.

It is important to note that even when you have received your vaccine, you must follow government guidance on social distancing and wearing a mask, as well as the additional measures in place in your area.

Yours sincerely,

The Drs and staff at Wyre Forest Health Partnership