PPG update – February 2021

Covid vaccination clinics all going very well and feedback mostly very good. Regular updates on the surgeries’ webpages, on social media pages (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram) and the CCG are continuing to remind patients not to call their surgeries but to wait to be contacted. Vaccine being delivered in line with the national guidance from the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, meaning those most at risk will be invited first. Totally understandable that people are very concerned as to when they will receive their vaccination.

The CCG has issued a fifth stakeholder update which has been circulated to practices and PPGs and other contacts, including voluntary groups, the farming community, and local parishes.

We are very aware of the digitally deprived, in other words, people who don’t have access to online platforms. We are working hard to ensure health-related communications are available to all, and while social media is one option that many people do use, we are very aware that many people either do not want to use it or do not have access to technology - so we are endeavouring to ensure information is available to as many people as we can possibly reach, in ways that are meaningful, accessible and convenient to them.

PPG members have been really helpful with sharing information to the wider community during the pandemic.  Our team is working with voluntary groups such as Dorset Community Action, Community Action Network, Carers Groups, the Dorset Mental Health Forum, DREC, LGBTQ+ groups, the Gypsy and Traveller Liaison Service at Dorset Council, Farming community contacts, and the CCG’s Public Engagement Group and members of these groups have been incredibly helpful in sharing information with family and friends and the wider community.

The mass vaccination site at Bournemouth International Centre is open and some people who have already been vaccinated have received contact from the BIC too, but the advice is that if you already have an appointment at the local vaccination site then continue to go there, so the vaccination isn’t wasted. However this is an additional option that some people might prefer – but if they don’t want to go to the mass site at the BIC they can choose to wait until they are called by their practice.