

**BRIDGE LANE GROUP PRACTICE - PATIENT GROUP***PATIENT GROUP*

The Patient Group is organised by a committee comprising **Zenobia Cowan-Davies (chair)**; **Jamie Gillespie (secretary)**; **Julia Rossman**; **Barrie Temple**; **Laura Roberts** and **David Herbert**.

It acts as a link between **Bridge Lane Group Practice** and its patients.

The committee welcomes suggestions and feedback from all patients. You can contact us through secretary **Jamie Gillespie** on his email address (see below).

We appreciate your messages and your support so far.

**FIVE IMPORTANT MESSAGES****THE VACCINATION PROGRAMME HAS STARTED**

Twelve Battersea GP practices have collaborated to open a Covid vaccination centre at The Junction Health Centre underneath Clapham Junction Station, 5 - 8 Grant Road. It opened on 8th January and has been working effectively since then.

The government has set out the challenging ambition of vaccinating all those in the top four priority groups by February 2020 as set out by the Joint Vaccination and Immunisation Committee (JVCI). At this time, the vaccine is being offered to:

- care home residents and people who work in care homes
- patients aged 80 and over
- health and care workers
- patients aged 75 and over

Staff from the Junction are visiting local care homes to contact residents and staff.

The Pfizer vaccine is being used at present but supplies of the Oxford AstraZeneca vaccine will be in use soon. Wandsworth GPs have set up 7 other centres in the borough to offer the vaccine to other practices, and there is also the possibility of a large-scale centre being opened if staffing can be found and if supply of vaccines increases.

**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

We need volunteers to check in patients arriving at the Junction and to guide them once processed. If you could do this please contact [swlccg.covidvacc@nhs.net](mailto:swlccg.covidvacc@nhs.net)

**We organise regular meetings and events for all patients. The most recent was held on Tuesday 27 October and was online. 24 people were involved as Dr Bayer gave an update on the Practice and how it was coping with the pandemic. She also described her role as lead clinician in our new Battersea Primary Care Network.**

**\*\*\*\* Our next patient briefing is on Tuesday 23 February 2021, sadly again online, at 18.00 till 19.00\*\*\*\***

**There will be a practice update from a member of staff then a presentation by Dr Emmanuel on patient involvement in primary care.**

**You will need to register for this on-line session by contacting**

**[jamiegillespie44@](mailto:jamiegillespie44@btinternet.com)**

**[btinternet.com](mailto:jamiegillespie44@btinternet.com)**

### PLEASE DON'T CALL THE PRACTICE

Please do not just turn up at the Junction - you will not be processed unless your GP has referred you. Please do not contact Bridge Lane Group Practice to ask for a vaccine. You are on their list and will be contacted once a slot becomes available for your age group. The contact will be by email, text, telephone or letter.

### BEWARE OF SCAMS

The vaccine is only available from the NHS and is being offered to people in priority groups. Vaccination is free and the NHS will contact you when it is your turn. Anyone offering a paid-for vaccine is committing a crime.

The NHS will never:-

Ask you to press a button on your keypad or send a text to confirm you want the vaccine.

Never ask for payment or for your bank account or card details, to pay for a vaccine or to confirm your eligibility for the vaccine.

Ask you for your PIN or banking password.

Arrive unannounced at your home to administer the vaccine. At the moment we are also not making house calls to deliver or discuss the vaccine.

Ask you to prove your identity by sending copies of personal documents such as your passport, driving licence, bills, bank account details or pay slips.

### PLEASE DO CALL THE PRACTICE

Bridge Lane is under severe pressure but is still functioning as a primary care practice. This means you should still contact a GP as normal if you are unwell, have a medical problem or are worried about your health!