



WRSB Newsletter

WOLVERHAMPTON RHEUMATOLOGY SUPPORT GROUP

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CARING IS SHARING

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CONTENT

- Coffee Mornings
- Other News
- Quiz page



*I sincerely Hope 2021
is going to be a
Happier Healthier year
for everyone.*

COFFEE MORNINGS

After wishing you all a happy New Year, I am afraid I cannot give you any news about our coffee mornings. As things stand at the moment Wolverhampton is in Tier 3. I shall of course keep in touch with Linden House for their updates.

CORONAVIRUS UPDATE

Wolverhampton is still in Tier 3, Very High Risk. However, the Covid-19 vaccination programme has started. On 09 December 2020 the first person in West Midlands was vaccinated at Walsall Manor Hospital. New Cross will be starting their programme very soon.

Some of you may be a little nervous of this vaccine, understandably so, given various health issues and medications taken. So I would like you to read the advice forwarded to me from our group president Dr S Raizada; my apologies to those of you that have already seen

this information, but it never hurts to repeat good advice.

**

Please see official information for the department which is going out via text message:

The COVID-19 Vaccine

- All our doctors and nurses recommend COVID-19 vaccination when it becomes available to all our patients who are eligible for it* e.g. NOT pregnant women / <16 y.o.
- None of the proposed UK vaccines have live coronavirus: you cannot catch COVID-19 from the vaccine- so it is safe with our medications and in the frail and elderly, and those with very weak immune systems
- Patient can have the COVID-19 Vaccine irrespective of treatments/ age: they do not contain the ‘live’ COVID virus.
- This includes combinations of steroid/ biologic drug treatments/ disease modifying drugs/ osteoporosis treatments
- The NHS will contact you in turn for your vaccination- which will likely be in 2021
 - o **Will NOT be via your rheumatology team**
 - o There is a priority schedule for vaccination
 - o “Clinically extremely vulnerable” will be vaccinated earlier than other patients
 - o People who were on the ‘**Shielding list**’ are the same as the ‘**clinically extremely vulnerable**’
Summary

· COVID-19 vaccine is safe and recommended to all our patients, by all the team here

· You will be called **by the NHS** when it is your turn to be vaccinated.

· **Further information:** please do not ring our helpline first, but visit Versus Arthritis webpages/ gov.uk. This will help us to help those with the most need.

**

In addition to the above advice, may I remind anyone that has a history of significant allergic reaction to medicines, food or other vaccines, not to accept the Pfizer/BioNTech coronavirus vaccination at this stage. After more research, the MHRA (Medical and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) may well be issuing further information for you. if in doubt, speak to your GP, they should have your allergies, if any, listed on your medical file.

Stay Safe Everyone

Jan Simpson
Chairperson / Editor

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