

Update for Wiltshire Area Boards

November 2022

Winter Pressures

Members of the public can play their part in easing the pressure on the local NHS over the coming months by choosing the healthcare option most appropriate for their condition.

Many minor illnesses and injuries can be managed safely and effectively at home with rest and over-the-counter medication, while quick help for any person unsure of how to treat a less-urgent condition can also be sought from community pharmacies.

In addition, people can get useful medical information, including symptom details and at-home treatment plans, via their smartphone, tablet or laptop by visiting the NHS website at www.nhs.uk or through NHS 111 online.

Further information on health and care services across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire, as well as details of how to access local pharmacies, can be found at www.bsw.icb.nhs.uk.

Covid-19 and flu vaccinations

More than 2.5 million Covid-19 vaccinations have now been given out to people living across Bath and North East Somerset, Swindon and Wiltshire.

Local vaccination teams hit the milestone achievement at the end of October after thousands of people aged 50 and over received their autumn booster. However, many people currently eligible for their latest top-up dose are still yet to come forward.

Adults over the age of 50 are being advised to have both the Covid-19 autumn booster jab and the seasonal flu vaccine to help stay protected throughout the cold winter months.

Both vaccines are free for people over the age of 50, Covid-19 vaccines continue to be available from the many well-established sites that have been involved in the vaccination programme since its inception almost two years ago. These include Bath Racecourse, the Steam Museum in Swindon and Salisbury City Hall and can be booked via the National Booking System.

People over the age of 50 can secure a flu vaccination through their GP practice or by visiting a participating community pharmacy. Some larger supermarkets and private high street chemists also offer a flu vaccination service, those not eligible for a free vaccine also have the option of paying for one.

Devizes Health Centre

The new Devizes Health Centre will welcome its first patients in December and will be one of the region's first integrated care centres, this new state of the art facility will enable the delivery of enhanced services in an improved clinical setting for people in and around Devizes.

Patients of the four local GP practices – Lansdowne Surgery, Market Lavington Surgery, St James Surgery and Southbroom Surgery will be able to be referred for same or next-day medical care at the new health centre, making it easier for patients to access the care they need locally.

The healthcare facility will provide primary care services, such as those traditionally found in GP practices, along with hospital outpatient services, physiotherapy, audiology, blood tests, and mental health support. The new centre brings together providers so that patients can be looked after in the most joined-up way possible.

Devizes Health Centre will also lead the field in sustainable design, as one of a small number of net zero health facilities across England. The site will have an energy EPC rating of A+, and will utilise green technology, such as heat pumps and solar panels to enable the site to be self-sufficient.

For more information on Devizes Health Centre, visit <https://bsw.icb.nhs.uk/news-and-events/integrated-care-centres/devizes-health-centre/>