

We continue to work with South Downs Health and Care (SDHC) in providing COVID Vaccines at the Crumbles Vaccination Centre, Eastbourne. The Booster programme is underway for those aged 75 and over as well as those who are immunocompromised (strict criteria as below). Children aged 5-11 Years Old can also book to be vaccinated. The easiest way to book in your vaccine is via the following website: [Book or manage a coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk/booking/)

SDHC will commence Vaccinations for eligible patients that are housebound in the near future.

Should you have any queries about the COVID vaccine, SDHC can be contacted at sdhc.vaccinations@nhs.net. Please do not book unless you are over 75 years old or fit the immunocompromised criteria as below. We appreciate that there will be some vulnerable patients who do not fit the above national guidance, if you think you might fall into a group needing the booster vaccine but are not on the list above, please email SDHC who can advise based on the Government and JCVI guidance.

SDHC continue to provide the vaccine programme on behalf of the practice, please do not contact the practice regarding COVID Vaccines.

The criteria for immunocompromised patients is:

Criteria for a Booster dose of COVID-19 vaccine in those aged 12 years and above Individuals with primary or acquired immunodeficiency states at the time of vaccination due to conditions including:

- acute and chronic leukaemias, and clinically aggressive lymphomas (including Hodgkin's lymphoma) who were under treatment or within 12 months of achieving cure at the time of vaccination
- individuals under follow up for a chronic lymphoproliferative disorders including haematological malignancies such as indolent lymphoma, chronic lymphoid leukaemia, myeloma, Waldenstrom's macroglobulinemia and other plasma cell dyscrasias (Note: this list is not exhaustive)
- adults and children aged 12 years and over with immunosuppression due to HIV/AIDS with a current CD4 count of < 3g/L due to primary immunodeficiency (e.g. common variable immunodeficiency) or secondary to disease / therapy Individuals on immunosuppressive or immunomodulating therapy at the time of vaccination including:
 - those who were receiving immunosuppressive therapy for a solid organ transplant at the time of vaccination
 - those who were receiving or had received in the previous 3 months targeted therapy for autoimmune disease, such as JAK inhibitors or biologic immune modulators including B-cell targeted therapies (including rituximab but in this case the recipient would be considered immunosuppressed for a 6 month period), T-cell co-stimulation modulators, monoclonal tumour necrosis factor inhibitors (TNFi), soluble TNF receptors, interleukin (IL)-6 receptor inhibitors., IL-17 inhibitors, IL 12/23 inhibitors, IL 23 inhibitors. (Note: this list is not exhaustive)
- those who were receiving or had received immunosuppressive chemotherapy or radiotherapy for any indication in the 6 months before vaccination Individuals with chronic immune-mediated inflammatory disease who were receiving or had received immunosuppressive therapy prior to vaccination including:
 - high dose corticosteroids (equivalent to ≥ 20 mg prednisolone per day) for more than 10 days in the month before vaccination
 - long term moderate dose corticosteroids (equivalent to ≥ 10 mg prednisolone per day for more than 4 weeks) in the 3 months before vaccination
 - non-biological oral immune modulating drugs, such as methotrexate >20 mg per week (oral and subcutaneous), azathioprine >3.0 mg/kg/day; 6-mercaptopurine >1.5 mg/kg/day, mycophenolate >1 g/day) in the 3 months before vaccination
 - certain combination therapies at individual doses lower than above, including those on ≥ 7.5 mg prednisolone per day in combination with other immunosuppressants (other than hydroxychloroquine or sulfasalazine) and those receiving methotrexate (any dose) with leflunomide in the 3 months before vaccination Individuals who had received high dose steroids (equivalent to >40 mg prednisolone per day for more than a week) for any reason in the month before vaccination

Regards,

Dr Raj Chandarana