

Patient Newsletter

Covid vaccines – look out for your invite

The Covid vaccine helps protect against Covid, which can be a serious or life-threatening illness for some people. It's usually offered on the NHS in spring and early winter to people who need extra protection from Covid.

What the Covid vaccine is for

The vaccination is an important part of protecting yourself if you're at increased risk of getting seriously ill from Covid.

The vaccines are offered because viruses change and protection fades over time. It's important to top up your protection if you're eligible.

Getting the vaccine can:

- help reduce your risk of getting severe symptoms
- help you recover more quickly if you catch Covid
- help reduce your risk of having to go to hospital or dying from Covid
- protect against different types of Covid.

There will be a spring booster of the Covid vaccine later in April.

The vaccine (Moderna) will only be for those who are over 75 or are severely immunocompromised.

If you are eligible you will be invited to attend your nearest participating pharmacy for your covid vaccine. This can be booked by calling 119 or using this link

www.nhs.uk/nhs-services/vaccination-and-booking-services/book-covid-19-vaccination

If you are housebound you will be contacted by nexus to arrange a vaccination home visit before the end of June.

Childhood vaccinations

From 1 May we have a walk in vaccine hour for children under 5 at **every site on every Thursday from 11am – 12pm**. Please walk in if your child is due any vaccines or you wish to discuss them.

A local consultant is doing some research into childhood vaccines and is keen to talk to families. There is an incentive of a £50 voucher. If you have children under 5 years old and would like to take part, please let us know by contacting selicb.nexus.ppg@nhs.net.

Pharmacy First

Pharmacists can give you advice on a range of conditions and suggest medicines that can help.

Conditions pharmacists can treat are:

- earache (aged 1 to 17 years)
- impetigo (aged 1 year and over)
- infected insect bites (aged 1 year and over)
- shingles (aged 18 years and over)
- sinusitis (aged 12 years and over)
- sore throat (aged 5 years and over)
- urinary tract infections or UTIs (women aged 16 to 64 years)

If the Pharmacist has offered you treatment, they will update your medical record.

Our Patient Participation Group

We held our most recent PPG on 24 March 2026. Thank you to those PPG members who were able to make the meeting.

Our Nurse Manager Claire Lannie updated the group about vaccinations.

1. **Covid.** For the Covid Spring booster plan, see the information on page 1.
2. **Meningitis.** You will have seen in the news that some students in canterbury have contracted meningitis and 2 have sadly died. It is thought these cases were Meningitis B.



The Meningitis B vaccine is only given to children aged 2 and under currently and most people in the UK over age 11 will not have had it as it was only introduced in 2015. **This is a national policy and cannot be adjusted for individuals by the practice.**

The Meningitis ACWY vaccine is given in school in year 9. If children miss it at school, it can be given up to their 25th birthday but no later.

It is also available at a travel clinic if recommended and **this is chargeable.**

3. **Neighbourhood working.** Nexus will be involved in the neighbourhood renal borough project. Appropriate patients will see a specialist Nurse who works for the Primary Care Network. Eligibility will depend on individual risk factors. In the beginning, Princess Street Practice and Decima Street Practice patients will be invited.

Our GP Partner Dr Anna Kedian updated the group about the new GP Contract.

1. The government agrees the contract and this is the guideline for what we need to deliver across the year.
2. Last year the emphasis was on online access.
3. We were closing our online form at 4pm so that we could to turn requests around in the same day. However we now need to have the form available until 6pm. This means we've had to release more GPs to triage the requests. Within Nexus it's the GP Partners who review all of our requests. We are in the process of recruiting more salaried GPs.
4. We release appointments 4 weeks in advance and appointments can be available on the day of request, within 7 days or within 14 days.
5. The exception is Long Term Condition reviews, diabetes reviews, smears (things can be booked in advance).

Kristina from the Health Improvement Network HIN and PSIRF ([Patient Safety Incident Response Framework](#))

In June 2024, the Health Innovation Network South London (HIN) began a pilot programme to introduce the Patient Safety Incident Response Framework (PSIRF) to general practice (GP). The work was commissioned by NHS England's Patient Safety team. The **approach** builds on learning about the implementation of PSIRF in secondary care and other settings over the past few years. Key principles to PSIRF are:

- Compassionate engagement.
- Systems-based approach.
- A proportionate response.
- Supportive oversight.

Kristina asked the group what patient safety means to them. The discussion will feed into recommendations for practices in Southwark.

Our PPG made some suggestions for the welcome leaflet:

Some members commented that our patient welcome leaflet did not contain all the useful information that they needed to complete routine tasks. We would be very grateful for your feedback on our current information. An example of the new patient leaflet is here [2025 DSS AHC Patient information leaflet.pdf](#). We would be grateful for any feedback you have on the leaflet. Please send suggestions to selicb.nexus.ppg@nhs.net

Routine HIV screening for Nexus Health Group patients

There is an extremely high rate of diagnosed HIV in Southwark – it is the highest in England. Whilst new HIV diagnosis rates are falling across Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham, over one third of London residents first diagnosed with HIV in the UK were diagnosed late, and there are still people living with HIV who are unaware of their status. If we take a blood test for any reason, we will automatically add on a HIV screen to the sample (if there has been no recent screening). If you wish to opt out of this programme, please speak to reception or your clinician. **HIV is now a long term manageable condition and with medication you can live a normal life and protect your loved ones.**

See more information at www.nexushealthgroup.nhs.uk/hiv-screening

MyChart

If you have had care at Guy's and St Thomas' Hospital, or your child has been seen in the Evelina then you may have used MyChart.



The MyChart platform lets you securely access parts of your hospital health record. You can find your hospital test results and letters and it also allows you to support your friends and family with proxy access.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR PATIENTS:

- **Your GP practice does not have access to MyChart.** We cannot see the information that is on there and do not get updated with information is added. If you have had tests or referrals requested by a hospital clinician, you need to follow up with them for the results.
- There is a feature called 'Share Everywhere' where a patient can choose to securely share information from MyChart with healthcare professionals including GPs however this is done via a 'share code' and is only valid for 60 minutes. There is no access to the information after 60 minutes.

If you are not sure how to contact your hospital team to discuss results, or having difficulty getting a response you can contact the St Thomas' PALS (Patient Advice and Liaison Service (PALS) using this link

[Your feedback - Contact PALS | Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust](#)



Get the NHS app

The NHS App gives you a simple and secure way to access a range of NHS services. Download the NHS App on your smartphone or tablet via the [Google play](#) or [App store](#). You can also access the same services in a web browser by [logging in through the NHS website](#).

What you can do with the NHS App

You need to [prove who you are](#) to get full access to the NHS App. With full access you can:

- Request an appointment using our online form
- order repeat prescriptions
- view your GP health record to see information like your allergies and medicines (if your GP has given you access to your detailed medical record, you can also see information like test results).