

## Opening of the New Leighton Buzzard COVID Vaccination Centre

The Leighton Buzzard Primary Care Network is excited to announce the opening this week of our Leighton Buzzard COVID-19 vaccination centre. This will be based at the Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club on Stanbridge Road and will be a jointly run service by all three general practices in the town.

The site will be a mass vaccination centre for patients registered with a GP Practice in Leighton Buzzard. People aged over 80 years old and those in nursing homes have been identified as the first group of patients for vaccination. The current National guidance is to offer vaccination to all those aged 50 years and over as well as those people who have medical conditions that make them at special risk of infection.

The centre will operate from 8am to 8pm for up to seven days per week on an ongoing basis until all target groups have been vaccinated.

The centre has been developed as a town-wide project and will be staffed by nurses, doctors and administrative staff from all the 3 Leighton Buzzard practices.

The service is being supported by a team of volunteer workers from a number of different groups and the PCN has been working closely with the Bedfordshire Clinical Commissioning Group, Leighton Linslade Town Council, BLEVEC, Arriva Buses, Buzzer Buses and the Leighton Buzzard Voluntary Patient Transport (LBVPT).

Arriva Buses will ensure that the No 32 bus will drop and collect passengers from the front entrance of the Rugby Club, as will Buzzer Buses and the LBVPT. There will be a separate car parking facility for staff, volunteers and drivers who are dropping off patients and waiting for them after their vaccination.

A large, heated marquee will be on site to keep patients safe and warm whilst they either wait to be seen inside the building or are waiting for their transport after their vaccination.

The CCG and BLEVEC will provide car marshals who will be on hand to guide drivers on their arrival and to assist patients. Staff and volunteers will be inside the building to look after patients during their vaccination experience.

Dr Henderson Director of the Leighton Buzzard Primary Care Network was quoted as saying,

*"I am so excited about the opening of our local COVID vaccination centre. It gives us a golden opportunity to finally defeat this terrible virus. The opening of the centre was only possible because of the fantastic help and support of so many different people, organisations and voluntary groups. I am particularly grateful to Leighton Buzzard Rugby Club who has made the venue available to us and has been a marvellous support throughout the project. I and*

*my fellow vaccinators can't wait to start so that we can get our local population immunised as soon as possible"*

The local Covid vaccination programme is dependent upon delivery of the vaccine.

All patients will be contacted by their Practice to arrange an appointment. These will be arranged in the government's published priority order. Please do not contact your Practice or the Rugby Club to arrange an appointment.

To ensure the smooth running of the service:

- Please arrive promptly and allow 30 minutes for your appointment.
- If possible please arrange your own private transport or ask family or friends to help if possible.
- As deliveries of the vaccine are strictly limited the vaccination centre is only able to offer the vaccine to those people who have been given an appointment by their surgeries. Please do not attend the centre if you do not have an appointment.

The PCN and Practice teams look forward to starting this much needed and important to protect us all from this virus.