



The Government of Sark

## **MEDICAL & EMERGENCY SERVICES COMMITTEE**

**COMMITTEE OFFICE, LA CHASSE MARETTE, SARK GY10 1SF**

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Dear Residents,

Following the great news of a vaccine against COVID 19, we wish to inform you of the Sark Vaccination Program.

The Sark Medical Practice and the Committee are working very closely with Dr Brink and Guernsey Public Health who are directing us through the Bailiwick Vaccination Program.

Sark residents will be offered the AstraZeneca Vaccine which will be arriving in Sark very soon. We will be allocated a specific number of doses on each delivery of the vaccine during the following weeks.

To allow the vaccine to be administered promptly Guernsey Public Health along with UK Public Health have devised the following categories for the vaccine program.

The first vaccine doses will be given to anyone in category 1 and category 2 which will include the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> dose per patient.

All other categories potentially will have the vaccine doses within the next 12 weeks in line with Guernsey Public Health guidelines.

Categories are as follows: -

- 1) older adults' resident in a care home and care home workers
- 2) all those 80 years of age and over and health and social care workers (which includes all Island Medical personnel)
- 3) all those 75 years of age and over
- 4) all those 70 years of age and over
- 5) all those 65 years of age and over
- 6) high-risk adults under 65 years of age
- 7) moderate-risk adults under 65 years of age
- 8) all those 60 years of age and over
- 9) all those 55 years of age and over
- 10) all those 50 years of age and over
- 11) rest of the population (priority to be determined)

More information on the vaccine in general can be found on the Guernsey Government website: - <https://covid19.gov.gg/guidance/vaccine>

For clarity here is the list of high-risk conditions:

solid organ transplant recipients

those with severe respiratory conditions including all cystic fibrosis, severe asthma, and severe chronic obstructive pulmonary disease (COPD)

those with rare diseases that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as severe combined immunodeficiency (SCID), homozygous sickle cell disease)  
those on immunosuppression therapies sufficient to significantly increase risk of infection.  
adults with Down's syndrome  
adults on dialysis or with chronic kidney disease (stage 5)  
pregnant women with significant heart disease, congenital or acquired (it is highly possible that the vaccination will not be recommended for this group)  
those with specific cancers:

- people with cancer who are undergoing active chemotherapy.
- people with lung cancer who are undergoing radical radiotherapy.
- people with cancers of the blood or bone marrow such as leukaemia, lymphoma or myeloma who are at any stage of treatment.
- people having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer.
- people having other targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors.
- people who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last 6 months or who are still taking immunosuppression drugs.

The moderate risk group is likely to be:

- have a lung condition that is not severe (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis)
- have heart disease (such as heart failure)
- have diabetes.
- have chronic kidney disease.
- have liver disease (such as hepatitis)
- have a condition affecting the brain or nerves (such as Parkinson's disease, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis or cerebral palsy)
- have a condition that means they have a high risk of getting infections.
- are taking medicine that can affect the immune system (such as low doses of steroids)
- are very obese (a BMI of 40 or above)

Our Practice Manager or Practice Nurse will be contacting residents once we have an official date of the vaccine delivery and we can begin the vaccination program.

They will arrange an appointment for you to receive the vaccine at the Sark surgery. **Please do not telephone the surgery about appointments for vaccinations.**

You will be given the 2 doses of the vaccine if you are in category 1 and 2 and you will be notified for your follow up appointment within 4 weeks of your 1<sup>st</sup> dose.

The Medical staff at the practice will be offering daily appointments to ensure the speedy administration of the vaccine.

This will enable Sark's community to have the protection from Coronavirus as soon as possible.

The vaccine is optional and is at your choice to receive the vaccine.

There will be **NO CHARGE** to residents for the vaccine or the administration.

**It is of great importance that as many people as possible receive the vaccine if we are to achieve reducing the risk to our community of COVID 19 for now and hopefully in the future.**

If you require any further information, please contact the Medical and Emergency Services Committee - [medical.emergency@sarkgov.co.uk](mailto:medical.emergency@sarkgov.co.uk) or the Practice Manager **BY EMAIL ONLY** – [practice.manager@sarkmedical.co.uk](mailto:practice.manager@sarkmedical.co.uk)



**Conseiller Helen Plummer, Chairman, Medical & Emergency Services Committee**