

From:BLOWFIELD, Yvonne
Sent:21 January 2021 15:24
To:JOHNSON, Boris <boris.johnson.mp@parliament.uk>
Subject:REQUESTING HELP FOR PATIENTS IN YOUR CONSTITUENCY

Dear Mr. Johnson

Requesting help for patients in your constituency.

I am writing to you once again on behalf of staff and patients of both surgeries which are situated in your constituency and as a 'local' having lived in the London Borough of Hillingdon all my life.

I am very disappointed that we have been hampered in our attempts to vaccinate our patients from Church Road Surgery and West London Medical Centre at our Church Road Surgery site.

The reason behind the Doctors desire to do this is because we treat our patients as members of our extended family and we want to ease them through this awful time by vaccinating them close to their homes, and the housebound, in their own homes. We know our patients very well and are in an excellent position to help them through these dark times.

Patients are constantly being told to stay at home, protect the NHS and save lives, stay away from public transport and walk or cycle.

Unfortunately, this is not possible for many of our older patients who are expected to travel to places outside your constituency. As I am sure you must be aware a lot of our elderly population cannot drive, or have retired from driving and therefore are unable to travel to such places. Many do not have family living close by who can take them and in addition, at this time of the year the weather is bad and the daylight hours short so therefore travelling on public transport is not an option, additionally there is the risk factor of possibly being exposed to the COVID virus. We are also in a better position to deal with any vaccine hesitancy using the expertise and relationship we have built with our patients. When the vaccination programme was delegated to GPs it was said that patient's own GPs are in a better place to do this due to their relationship with their patients. Our application to begin vaccinating from our site has been stuck in approvals process which seems to be revolving around whether 2 practices working together constitute a "group" as required by the service specification. This is exasperating given what is at stake! We have everything that is required in place at Church Road Surgery and we are standing by waiting to start vaccinating. I am sure you will understand our reasons for wishing to vaccinate our own patients and would ask you for your help.

I would urge you to step in urgently with the NHS commissioners to enable us to vaccinate the patients- your constituents- from our two surgeries which we are able to do at short notice and we are able to work long hours, 7 days a week to get as many patients vaccinated as quickly as possible in familiar surroundings closer to their home.

We fear any further delays are going to increase the risk of our patients of catching infection when the number of deaths are going up and infection rates are not coming down.

I appeal to you to help us get Church Road designated as a vaccination site as quickly as possible.

Thank you

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Yvonne Blowfield

Practice Manager