

## **A Reflection on our Drive Through Flu Vaccine Clinic**

**“Vires Rebus Adversis”**

### **THE INNOVATION**

The COVID-19 pandemic has significantly altered General Practice (family medicine)<sup>3</sup>. This year there was a big demand for the flu vaccine, but we wanted to keep both patients and staff safe and thus, set about organising a ‘drive through’ flu vaccine clinic.

During a ten-week period, (September 29<sup>th</sup> to December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020) we vaccinated 1754 adult patients and 908 paediatric patients in their cars. On evaluation of this clinical innovation, which suggested high levels of satisfaction amongst staff and patients, we intend to replicate this approach for delivery of the Covid vaccine.

### **Who And Where**

Irish General practice is a mixture of public and private healthcare. In the public system the general practitioner (GP) is paid to perform certain health activity. This year for the first time ever the state paid the GP med to carry out vaccinations on every citizen. This created the prospect of large numbers coming through our practice in an unsafe time.

In early March as the realisation of the pandemic dawning on us in general practice, we had erected a small tent in our carpark for patient reviews. As winter approaches, we need a stronger structure. After pricing up the various options we settled on a Portakabin with a storm proof drive through marquee to the side. We installed lights in the marquee and connected the cabin to a power point.

### **HOW**

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We ordered cones and signage and clearly marked out a one-way system. A dedicated area for post vaccine observation was also marked out. Inside the cabin we set up a computer, label printer, printer, and an internet port. We installed storage, bins, and a desk. We stocked the cabin with PPE. a basic doctor’s bag, an anaphylaxis kit, a cushion, and a foil blanket for emergencies.

The drive through clinic was booked exclusively online using a link on our website. We also sent the link to the online portal via text message to various subgroups throughout our campaign.

We scheduled both adult and child appointments for 5 mins per clinician. We ran weekend clinics for the nasal flu vaccine for children which may have increased uptake.

## Learning

There were high satisfaction rates among patients and parents with an overwhelming majority opting, in future, to get the flu vaccine in the car

Once the flu clinic finished, we were left with a hugely versatile workspace and as the pandemic raged it has become more and more useful. We run drive through blood clinics, drive through doctor review clinics and we also set up a drive through respiratory clinic for COVID +ve patients. Not alone is it a safe space to work in but it is a lovely change of scene during a busy day to get out into the fresh air

We are now facing one of the most important challenges we have faced in recent times – the covid vaccine rollout. We feel this model can be used elsewhere .



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