

# Patient Newsletter

Issue 46  
Autumn 2021

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## Welcome to the Autumn Newsletter

Autumn is a beautiful time of year. Yes, it's always sad that Summer is over, but that doesn't mean Autumn isn't worthy of the same affection. The leaves change from green to an incredible display of vibrant colours, just as your cheeks get a little rosy from the colder weather!

### Staff News:

We are sad to inform everyone that Dr Ruth Arnold, our Salaried GP will be leaving us at the end of September and will be missed by staff and patients alike. Dr Fiona Tenters, our GP Registrar, finished her final training placement with us in August after 12 months and Dr Lucy James, our new F2 Trainee GP joined us in August for a 4 month placement to progress her training.

## Have You Booked Your Flu Jab?

Although flu vaccinations are being offered by many alternative providers, your GP surgery is still a great place to have your jab.



We have direct access to your medical record, we can check for any other vaccinations you may be entitled to, we can update your personal details if required and we can record directly into your medical notes.

If you are aged over 50 years, are pregnant, or are under 65 with a medical health condition, you are advised to get vaccinated every year.

**PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR LOCAL SURGERY AND CONTACT US TO BOOK YOUR**

## National Data Opt Out (Type 2)

If you do not want NHS Digital to share your identifiable patient data with anyone else for purposes beyond your own care, then you can register a National Data Opt Out (also known as Type 2 Opt out).

**NOTE:** You can only do this via the following ways – as a GP practice we cannot opt you out of Type 2 (National Data Opt-out)

You need to, either;

call 0300 303 5678

or

complete the online form via

[YOUR NHS MATTERS](https://www.nhs.uk/your-nhs-data-matters/manage-your-choice/)

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## Surgery Closures September to November

We will be closed for Mandatory Training on:

Thursday 9th September - 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Tuesday 5th October - 3:30pm to 6:30pm

Tuesday 9th November - 3:30pm to 6:30pm



Please call NHS 111 if you have any urgent needs during these times.

## Are Your Contact Details Up to Date?



Please let us know if you have changed your mobile number or address so we can update our records. Thank you.

## Joke Corner!

Just had an operation on my funny bone.  
The Doctor says I'll be in stitches for weeks!



## COVID -19 Booster Vaccination Programme

The Joint Committee on Vaccinations and Immunology (JCVI) has set out plans for the Covid Booster Programme to take place from September.



The JCVI proposes a two-stage process:

Stage 1 - From September 2021:

- Adults aged 16 years and over who are immunosuppressed
- Those living in residential care homes for older adults
- All adults aged 70 years or over
- Adults aged 16 years and over who are considered clinically extremely vulnerable
- Frontline health and social care workers

Stage 2 - Following as soon as possible after stage 1, likely around December:

- All adults aged 50 years and over
- Adults aged 16 to 49 years who are in an Influenza or Covid-19 at risk group (those who would usually be offered the flu jab and viewed as clinically vulnerable for Covid-19)
- Adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals (as younger adults will only recently have received their first and second doses, the booster for this group will be considered in due course)

There is good evidence that a full course of any Covid-19 vaccine used in the UK will provide good protection against severe disease for at least 6 months for the majority, and there is some evidence that longer lasting protection may be afforded.

Those who are severely immunosuppressed (for instance those with solid organ transplants) have been prioritised for booster jabs as they may not respond as well to Covid vaccines and are at much higher risk of severe disease. The JCVI advises that these patients should be offered booster vaccines at the start of the booster programme.

Unless otherwise eligible, adult household contacts of immunosuppressed individuals should be offered booster revaccination alongside those in Stage 2.

## Thank you for your Support

General Practices are open for business and offering face-to-face appointments but are facing unprecedented demand, delivering the Covid vaccination program, being affected by the backlog elsewhere in the NHS, and are facing staff shortages.

GPs and their practice teams are delivering a far greater number of consultations now than they did in the Winter peak of January 2020– and they have been working hard throughout the pandemic. We are doing our best to keep patients and staff safe in the face of the constantly changing challenges posed by the Covid-19 pandemic and have had to adapt to new ways of working and new technology.

### **We must act cautiously and maintain Covid control measures.**

Social distancing, face coverings, and infection control measures are still applicable, so patients should only receive a face-to-face appointment if they genuinely need one.

We are grateful for the support and understanding of our patients which was reflected in the recently published GP Patient Survey:

<https://www.england.nhs.uk/statistics/2021/07/08/gp-patient-survey-2021/>

### **We are here to support you.**

We realise that waiting for an appointment can be frustrating. We are here to support you, so please continue to also show us your support by being kind, patient and responsible when accessing our services.

**Thank you for your support.**

