



Working together for better health

NEWSLETTER

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COVID-19

We continue to be in the grip of the pandemic and it certainly looks as if it will some time before General Practice returns to anything like normal.

All the staff at Dronfield Medical Practice are working under tremendous pressure as we adapt to new ways of working. We are ensuring that the surgery environment is as safe as possible.

- **Please do not attend the surgery unless you have an appointment.** Requests for prescriptions and appointments should be dealt with electronically or by telephone.
- We ask that all patients wear a **face mask** on entering the building.
- We will **check your temperature** on arrival with a thermal imaging camera
- Our reception staff are protected behind a **Perspex screen**.
- In order to ensure **safe social distancing** we will limit the numbers of patients in the waiting room and there may be occasions when patients are asked to wait outside the building.
- Our clinical staff will wear **PPE**.
- **All requests for GP appointments will now initially be triaged on the telephone.** We are making greater use of telephone and video consultations and we will now often ask patients to send photos of skin lesions, rashes etc to avoid them having to come into surgery. Our Patient Participation Group have produced an excellent information sheet to help patients upload photos. Many routine reviews are now conducted by telephone.
- We continue to offer **blood tests, childhood immunisations and cervical smears**. It is important that patients still attend for these essential services.
- We have now resumed our **skin surgery clinics** and are again offering **joint injections**.
- Patients who have suspected infection will be asked to enter the building via our **Red Zone** to minimise risk to other patients. Details of this will be given by the clinician when they book your appointment. The Red Zone is deep cleaned after each patient contact.

These measures are in place to protect staff and patients alike.

We are unable to offer testing for Covid—please visit the NHS website or call 111 if you suspect you may have Covid symptoms.

We are currently seeing levels of demand for our services that we would normally associate with a bad winter. We would therefore ask that you think carefully before contacting the surgery. If demand continues to increase as we move into winter it may well be that we have to suspend some services again.

Hospital services are slowly returning to normal but clearly there will be a backlog to clear now that we're seeing a lifting of the lockdown.

Similarly community services such as **physiotherapy** and **podiatry** are only now just starting to resume patient contacts.

As cases of Covid start to increase again it's important that we remain vigilant and follow the guidance.

STAY SAFE—PROTECT YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Dr Stuart Saunders

After a 30 year association with Dronfield Medical Practice, Dr Saunders has announced that he will be leaving at the end of this year. He will continue to do some locum GP work but will spend more time with family.

“It’s been a tremendous privilege to have served the people of Dronfield over the years and in that time we’ve seen great improvements in the NHS and the health of the population. We have a wonderful team at Dronfield Medical Practice and I’m lucky to have been part of that. I know that the practice will continue to go from strength to strength”

Dr Saunders leaves with our very best wishes.

We’re delighted that **Dr Lucy Hickman** will become a partner at the practice in the New Year. Dr Hickman brings a great deal of experience to the partnership.

Finally, **Dr Robyn Grayson** begins her maternity leave in October and we wish her well. We are securing some locum cover in the interim.



FLU CAMPAIGN 2020/21

This winter it’s more important than ever that you receive your flu jab.

We are currently taking bookings for our flu clinics. Demand is likely to be exceptionally high this year so don’t delay.

We will operate a **one-way system** through the building for these clinics to ensure social distancing and we request that all patients wear a face covering. Our reception staff will be on hand to ensure a safe and steady flow of patients through the building.

We will again be offering Saturday morning appointments as well as some mid-week slots.

Those **over 65** and those **18-64 with chronic health conditions** will be offered the vaccine first. **Pregnant women** should be immunised.

It’s essential that **Frontline Health and Social Care workers** are immunised.

Those **aged 50-64** are also being offered the vaccine later in the year and it’s likely these will be given centrally rather than by the practice.

At the time of writing we don’t yet have dates for delivery of vaccines for the **pre-school group**.

Primary and Year 7 children will be immunised by the **School Health service**.

Children aged 2-17 are offered a live vaccine as a nasal spray. At risk children aged 6 month to 2 years are offered an injection as the nasal spray is not licenced for children under 2.

Adults aged 18-64 are offered an injected inactivated vaccine.

Adults aged 65 and over receive a different inactivated injection to ensure a stronger response to the vaccine.

THE FLU VACCINE CANNOT GIVE YOU FLU.

Please support the NHS and your GP practice by having your flu jab at the surgery rather than at a commercial pharmacy or supermarket.