

Sixpenny Handley and Chalke Valley Practice Newsletter June 2021

Thank you to everyone who has supported us during the pandemic, supplying PPE, making scrubs and helping those in our communities. We are seeing a rise in Covid-19 cases again and must remain vigilant around infection control and keeping everyone safe.

Covid-19 vaccines

If you are aged 18 and over and have not been vaccinated against Covid-19 please book your covid-19 vaccines now on the NHS website or by ringing 119 free of charge.

This is the best way of protecting you from covid-19 as well as those you live with, work with, care for or come into contact with. If you are unsure and would like to discuss it with a health care professional, please contact the surgery.

[Book or manage your coronavirus \(COVID-19\) vaccination - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

Collecting General Practice Data for Planning and Research (GDPR)

Your health records contain a type of data called confidential patient information. This data can be used to help with research and planning. You can choose to stop your confidential patient information being used for research and planning. You can also make a choice for someone else like your children under the age of 13.

NHS digital and the government are delaying their new data programme until patients and the public have had time to be aware of and understand the programme and choose to opt-out if they wish. This will allow for the public and patients to have a proper understanding of what the programme was intended for and to give enough time to make fully informed choices on whether they should opt-out or not. We are told the roll-out will begin on 1st September, 2021.

Please use the following links for further information including how to opt out if you wish to.

[Make your choice about sharing data from your health records - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk)

[General Practice Data for Planning and Research \(GDPR\) - NHS Digital](https://www.nhs.uk)

[Collecting GP data - advice for the public - NHS Digital](https://www.nhs.uk)

New staff

You may have noticed some changes in our staff, and in recent months, we have welcomed new colleagues in reception, administration and practice nursing.

We are delighted to welcome two new members of staff who will be working in new roles for the practice and our Primary Care Network of practices.

We now have a nurse at the practice to assess and support those of you concerned about memory loss or established dementia. We are pleased to be able to offer face to face annual dementia reviews with our new nurse and those of you with dementia will be invited in for an annual review to which you are welcome to bring a relative, friend or carer.

For those of you who are diagnosed with cancer, we have a new nurse in the practice who has dedicated time to support you and work with you alongside your hospital specialists in the months following your diagnosis. You will be contacted by the practice to offer an appointment with our cancer nurse within six months of your diagnosis. If you would like an appointment sooner than this about something relating to your cancer that you feel is best discussed with us rather than your specialist team, please contact us.

We have a new care co-ordinator who works for our Primary Care Network of practices. Their role is to help you, no matter what your needs might be. For example, whether you are a single parent feeling isolated, or have an elderly relative who needs more help to live at home, our care co-ordinator can support you and advise you on the choices available to you.

Covid-19 tests

Please be sure to do the correct type of swab test to check whether you have Covid-19 or not.

If you have symptoms that might be due to Covid-19, a rapid lateral flow test is NOT the correct test to use.

	With symptoms	Without symptoms
Test type	PCR tests.	Rapid lateral flow tests or rapid COVID-19 tests.
When to take the test	If you have COVID-19 symptoms. To confirm your lateral flow tests result.	If you do not have symptoms of COVID-19. As part of routine testing twice a week.
How long it takes	These tests are processed in labs. Up to 72 hours, most results the next day	Result processed by test device, around 30 minutes.
Get a test	Order online, at a test site or call 119.	Order online, at a test site, call 119 or at participating pharmacies and workplaces.

And finally

You may have seen or heard recent media coverage about how busy General Practice is. We have had many lovely and supportive comments from our patients for which we are extremely grateful. Please do not hold back from seeking our help for anything in your health

that you are worried about. Year on year we are offering more and more appointments to assess your concerns about your health.

We ask you all though, to please think about how you speak to us. Please do not be rude, we are all doing our very best to help you.