

## **Sixpenny Handley & Chalke Valley Practice Newsletter**

### **October 2021**

The partners and staff of the practice would like to thank all our patients and visitors who have supported our strict adherence to Covid 19 avoidance processes. Masks, hand washing and keeping a safe distance from other people remains the most efficient way of not spreading viruses.

Please please remain vigilant, careful and help us all get through Winter.

### **Please DO**

- get vaccinated against COVID-19 – [find out how to book your COVID-19 vaccine](#)
- meet people outside if possible
- open doors and windows to let in fresh air if meeting people inside
- limit the number of people you meet and avoid crowded places
- wear a face covering when it's hard to stay away from other people – particularly indoors or in crowded places
- wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitiser regularly throughout the day

### **Influenza Vaccination Campaign 2021**

We are well into vaccinating the target group this year. Our thanks go to Broad Chalke School who have again allowed us to use their premises so we can continue the drive through clinic.

Please check the Government advice to see if you should be vaccinated.

### **Coronavirus Vaccination Program**

The new groups eligible for vaccination and booster doses of the Coronavirus vaccines are being rolled out. We have been very lucky to have amazing support from the Primary Care Network (PCN) who continue to operate from the Michael Herbert Hall in Wilton. House bond patients will be vaccinated soon by a visiting service.

### **Staff Changes**

We are very lucky with our friendly dedicated team and are sad to be seeing some changes.

**Maxine Jenkins** our practice manager, is leaving us to work in healthcare nearer to her home and with less hours. We are very grateful to Maxine for her hard work dedication and skills while steering us through a very hard 4 years.

**Donna Merchant** is also leaving us to retire. She has provided a cheerful & knowledgeable approach to practice nursing.

We are trying to find a replacement practice manager and a replacement practice nurse. The availability of suitable replacements is limited but we are trying hard to find the right person.

**Dr Charlotte MacPherson** is recovering well, and we are looking forward to welcoming her back to work.

### **Winter Pressures**

Winter 2021 has started on the back foot. With covid infections rising rapidly again and a lot of sickness plus staff needing to rest as well as cover for colleagues we are all feeling the huge pressure. We have managed to

keep the surgery open since the lockdown. It has been a struggle with doctors working twelve-hour days and all our staff working as much time as they can spare, we have very little slack at this time.

Please try to be understanding with telephoning, booking appointments and ordering medicines.

**Twenty-four-hour medicine dispensing machine.**

Affectionately called “TED” by the staff, the automated machine has changed medicine collection for a lot of people.

By ordering online your medicines will be dispensed and when put in the machine, you will receive a Text to give you a personalised PIN so you can collect your medicine at your convenience and without needing contact with people in the surgery.

Please use TED if you can as it is efficient and will reduce the chance of virus transmission. Please ask the receptionist how to enrol.