

The Sixpenny Handley and Chalke Valley Practice
Newsletter October 2020

Due to the coronavirus outbreak, how you contact us is different at the moment. This is to limit face-to-face contact when possible and help stop the spread of coronavirus.

Your GP practice is open 8am-6.30pm Monday to Friday and if you need to see your GP, please ring us on 01725 552500 or 01722 780282 or visit our website.

<https://www.sixpennydocs.co.uk/>

You can also call NHS 111 for advice. Please do not come to the surgery unless you have an appointment, are collecting medication or we are expecting you to deliver or collect an item from reception.

We will try where we can to text, email or post any items such as letters or forms to you that would otherwise require collection.

We can only accept specimens, including urine samples, requested by our doctors and nurses. Any other requests relating to specimens will be assessed by phone or a website enquiry first. If you are asked to bring a specimen in please note that we cannot accept specimens in glass containers.

Our first drive-thru flu clinic was a great success and we have three more booked. If you are eligible for a flu vaccine and have not booked your appointment please contact our flu team on 01725 553222. From Monday 12th October the phone line will revert to 1-2pm Monday to Friday. If you are not a patient of our District Nursing team and it is not possible for you to attend a drive-thru do please speak to our flu team and they will arrange an alternative venue for you.

If you are eligible for the flu vaccine because you are a household contact of someone extremely vulnerable to Covid-19 (shielding) we hope to have some more vaccine once we have vaccinated the extremely vulnerable patients themselves. NHS England inform us as that extra vaccines will be distributed later in November and into December. We are waiting to hear the arrangements for people aged 50-64.

Broad Chalke Surgery.

We can't thank you enough for your patience and understanding during the pandemic regarding the Broad Chalke site. We had hoped to resume a limited phlebotomy service this month but with the escalation in Covid-19 cases and the impact of Test and Trace we do not want to risk having to stop our services there soon after resuming them. We know the Covid-19 cases in Wiltshire, Dorset and Hampshire are not as high as other parts of England but we still need to be vigilant.

We are looking at whether we could operate some services at Broad Chalke without the need for a receptionist on site. This of course has challenges that we are working through.

For most people the main issue might be medication collection from Broad Chalke. We are assessing how our patients unable to collect from Sixpenny Handley will be supported in this beyond the incredible work the villages' volunteer groups have been providing.

It has been necessary to change our procedures for anyone entering the surgery buildings. Please remember if you need to self-isolate due to symptoms of Covid-19 yourself or any member of your household, you must stay at home. We will assess your request by phone or via our website. If you are self-isolating and need a face to face appointment, please be assured this will be arranged at a suitable location.

We have installed an intercom system and on arrival at the front door of the surgery please press the buzzer and wait outside until the receptionist answers. You will be asked the reason for attendance and some screening questions about symptoms of Covid-19 and self-isolation including whether you or anyone in your household are waiting for the results of a Covid-19 test.

If you need to come into the building and the weather is bad, please come prepared if you need to wait at the door. We are planning the installation of a 24hr a day secure machine outside the Sixpenny Handley Surgery for collection of medication to avoid needing to queue for the dispensary and planning permission for this is underway. We appreciate your patience in the mean-time. We wish to thank our door marshals who provided a valuable service throughout the spring and summer.

We thank you all for your understanding.