



# Newsletter – Spring 2021

Welcome to our spring 2021 newsletter. The start of the year has been extremely busy for the Westgate Practice mainly due to ensuring a successful and efficient influenza and Covid19 vaccine roll out for our patients as well as continuing to maintain our day to day services.

As the regulations around social distancing and the wearing of face coverings remain in place we are continuing with an 'on the day' system for booking of appointments via telephone or online via Patient Access. You will be offered a telephone consultation but if the GP or ANP feels you need to be seen then you will be invited to attend the practice. Other services are operational such as medication reviews (by telephone); INR clinics; cervical smears; wound dressings; diabetic and asthma reviews. Please be aware that due to the extra time needed to carry out a blood test we only have capacity to do those requested by our clinical staff and not for consultant requests which should be done by the hospital concerned.

Other Services: You can book directly by telephone or online for services such as Physiotherapy; Memory Clinics; Well Being Service, no referral is needed.

If you have any worrying symptoms please don't delay. For minor illness and lots of other services please have a look at our website [www.westgatepractice.co.uk](http://www.westgatepractice.co.uk) or consult your pharmacist for support.

## Covid-19 Vaccination Programme update:

So much has happened since the winter newsletter with the extremely successful development and roll out of the Pfizer and Astra Zeneca vaccines. The practice has been extremely busy ensuring that our patients have been offered a vaccination at the

appropriate time. We are very grateful for the use of Lichfield Cathedral as a large safe space to hold our clinics, and to all the staff and volunteers who have been involved.

We are pleased to report that we have achieved 90% vaccination to all priority groups 1-9 (and 99% in some cases) with 15,957 patients receiving their first dose of a vaccine and 5,596 have now had both doses of a vaccine. More second doses are being administered as we type....

Please do not call the practice to find out when you may be called. Be assured that the practice will contact you in order of the priority list. Remember that if you are contacted arrive only if you are well; no more than 5 minutes before your appointment; wear a facemask/covering and wear clothing that allows easy access to your upper arm for vaccination. Please bring your fully completed questionnaire with you, it is available to download from the website <http://www.westgatepractice.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Generic-covid-screening-form-v2.pdf>

The National Booking system is now open for those over the age of 40 years. Please note that we will not be offering vaccines at the practice for these younger age groups at present as we are not yet being sent any first dose vaccines, so please book online or via the 119 service at the larger centres.

## Other News.....



Facebook – We regularly post information on our Facebook page, join and share!

### Practice closures 2021

The Practice will be closed from 2pm for Protected Learning Time on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> May; Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> June and Tuesday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2021. We will also be closed for both of the May Bank Holidays 3<sup>rd</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup> May.

### Patient participation group

Virtual PPG meetings continue to be held with the last meeting on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> February 2021 chaired by our newly appointed chair Mrs Sheila Espin. Minutes are available to read on our website, the next zoom meeting is planned for Monday 10<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

The past year has been challenging for us all so looking after your mental health and wellbeing is important visit Every Mind Matters for lots of expert advice and practical tips to help you. Everyone Health is

commissioned by Staffordshire County Council for anyone aged over 18.

They offer support if you are feeling lonely or isolated and also online physical activity sessions. Call 0333 005 0095 or visit

[staffordshire.everyonehealth.co.uk](http://staffordshire.everyonehealth.co.uk).