



Marysville Medical Practice

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Welcome to February's newsletter! Like many of you we are trying to get through this difficult time and are just grateful that vaccinations are now taking place and Spring is near. We are still here seeing and treating patients as safely and effectively as possible, dealing with the most urgent needs first. Please continue to contact us in the normal way, but be advised we are not booking routine appointments as we were pre pandemic– mainly as we have to release staff to help with vaccination.

If you think you may have Coronavirus symptoms you should still use the on-line 111 service or call 111 initially.

If you are concerned a non-Coronavirus matter, that you think is important, do still contact us but please use E-CONSULT where possible in the first instance (see Page 2)

Covid Vaccine

We have been working very closely with the other Shrewsbury practices and also the local hospitals to get vaccinating. The GPs, Nurses and reception staff all helped initially at the Royal Shrewsbury Hospital to do the **over 80year olds**. Liz Starkie our ACP has also led a small team to deliver Covid vaccinations to our care home residents. As of 28/01 we also managed to get out to all of our **housebound patients** to get them vaccinated.

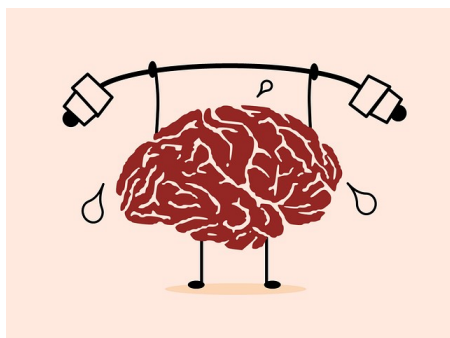
We are now excited to be working with the other 16 Shrewsbury PCN GP Practices to do vast numbers of vaccinations on weekends and some week days at **Severnfields Medical Practice** (which has the needed space).We also have a group of volunteers who will be helping us with marshalling duties. We are so lucky that we have so many willing helpers!



The vaccines cannot be moved again (so cannot be moved to individual GP practices) as they have to be kept in very specific conditions. As soon as supplies are sent out (often with little notice) we will only have a few days in which to use these vaccines so will be contacting those eligible very quickly, usually by phone and text messages, and our staff may have to help in these clinics.

Mental Health and Well Being

We are seeing an increase in the number of patients struggling with their mental well being, which is not surprising given that for many of us life has been turned upside down. Some people have lost their jobs, been on furlough for a long time or are living in difficult circumstances.



We are a unique practice in that we have continued to employ and fund our in-house counsellors who do an amazing and valued job. **In order to improve our response to this need they have expanded their role and will now be helping GPs to do initial assessments** for anyone who is struggling. This will allow more time for patients to talk through their concerns, as well as exploring other strategies. Our counsellors will be able to signpost or refer these patients onto other services as per their need.

A plea!

The vast majority of our patients are respectful, kind and appreciative but a small number are unpleasant to the reception team who seem to bear the brunt of any unmet expectations. Please be patient with reception as they do a really difficult but valuable role and are also like all of us having to cope with a lot of change at work as well as at home during this pandemic.



COVID in SHROPSHIRE

In the 2 weeks after Christmas we saw a dramatic rise in patients testing positive for Covid at Marysville. This was shown later in the statistics for Shropshire with a **four fold increase** in this time. We certainly noticed this extra work at Marysville.

Although we rarely assess patients face to face with Covid (we do not bring into the surgery) we do work closely with the ambulance service and Shropdoc to support these patients and assess if they need further treatment or admission to hospital. A lot of patients have underlying conditions such as asthma and may need medical advice. This is on top of our usual work and we do not have any extra staff or time to do this and so we had to make the decision to return to doing most work "on the day" rather than booking ahead. Essential nurse appointments such as dressings, blood tests and injections are still booked in ahead.

Why does this help?

- If you have a serious or life threatening problem we can deal with it straight away giving it the time it needs
- Home visits can be done earlier in the day which helps the hospital assess patients sooner
- If a GP or nurse is off ill or isolating we don't have many pre booked appointments to cancel/ rearrange and disappoint patients
- We can release the GP or nurse at short notice to provide the vaccinations at the Vaccination centre.

We will of course still be dealing with as much non-urgent or routine work as we still can and will always inform you if we are unable to deal with something.

Please do continue to contact us if you are unsure if your symptoms are serious or not as we will assess you fully and bring you in to be seen if this is needed. We are still open for business despite working in quite a different way to meet the new demands on us.

Please contact us particularly if you have any of the following symptoms:

- change in bowel habit/ blood in stools/ tummy swelling or pains
- Blood in urine/ problems passing urine or vaginal bleeding that is unexplained
- cough not going away after 3 weeks/ coughing blood/ breathlessness not due to Covid
- breast lumps/ testicular lumps /any unexplained lumps elsewhere
- vague symptoms- not feeling right - weight loss

We are following national guidance and for those who wish to know more about this please see https://www.rcgp.org.uk/-/media/Files/Policy/A-Z-policy/2020/covid19/RCGP-guidance/RCGP_BMA-COVID_workload_prioritisation_5112020.ashx?la=en - we are at level 4/5.

Oxygen Monitoring of High Risk Patients with Covid

We are making full use of and support a national scheme to monitor those at high risk of Covid complications. This involves us checking each positive Covid patients notes and if they are high risk contacting them, assessing how they are and then providing a small device that checks their oxygen level. They are then monitored regularly through the first 2 weeks of the illness, when most complications (often sudden and difficult to detect) occur.

This has already been successful in identifying some of our patients for which their oxygen levels were dropping, allowing a speedy assessment and medical help.



Marysville Partnership

Dr Julia Visick has been the Sole GP Partner for the last few years. Dr Visick has done an incredible job on keeping the practice going but it is a hard and pressured position to be in, so we are delighted to announce that from 1st April 2021 Dr Pippa Hine, one of our salaried GPs, and Mrs Izzy Culliss, our Practice Manager will be joining her in the Partnership. Collectively they will run the practice and make joint decisions on development and strategic business decisions.



***NEW* MOBILE CHECK IN NOW AVAILABLE AT MARYSVILLE!**

JUST SCAN THE QR CODE WITH YOUR SMARTPHONE TO CHECK IN TO YOUR APPOINTMENT