

THE HADLEIGH PRACTICE WINTER 2021-22 NEWSLETTER

Practice Staff

We are so pleased to welcome back Dr Johannes Nussmann to the GP team and Megan Eldridge as a Health Care Assistant.

Dr Nussmann left the Practice to complete his GP training, but now as a fully-fledged GP he has returned. When not working or caring for his new daughter, he enjoys kite surfing and other outdoor activities.

We really missed Megan when she left to develop her career in another direction, but found she missed you all so much, she had to return!

We also welcomed 4 new GP Registrars in August. Dr Samit Thakur and Dr Adam Davies are working at Hadleigh Lodge. While Dr Kate Bracken and Dr Milan Gucik are working at Hadleigh House.

Flu Clinics

Our Flu Clinics are well under way with over 5000 of our patients having received their vaccine by mid-October. Not surprisingly, uptake for the vaccine increased substantially during the pandemic last year and we were expecting a similar uptake this year. However, uptake of the influenza vaccine has substantially increased again, perhaps due to the Government and Media campaigns. As a result of this unprecedented uptake of influenza vaccine, we had one clinic where we ran out of vaccine. We appreciate this was distressing to those who ventured out in the adverse autumn weather conditions and the inconvenience to those who had their appointments cancelled. We wish to sincerely apologise for this.

We are pleased to advise that we have now received further deliveries of vaccine and all patients who are eligible under the NHS influenza vaccination programme, should now be able to receive a vaccine.

If you are in the 50-64-year-old age group and have not had an influenza vaccine you will receive your invite to a flu clinic via text. If we do not have your mobile number, then we will either telephone you at home or write to you.

COVID Vaccinations

NHS Invitations for booster vaccines are being sent out to eligible patients. If you receive an NHS invitation to book a booster vaccine, your options are to book an appointment on the NHS website by following this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/>

Or by telephoning 119.

Alternatively, you may wish to wait for your Primary Care Network (PCN) invitation to have the vaccine at the Hamworthy Club, Canford Magna. Those in the highest risk groups will be prioritised for this service.

Normal Service

Our Reception team are currently depleted and so existing staff are having to work additional hours. In addition, they are answering unprecedented volumes of telephone enquiries. Please remain calm and patient with our staff and please try to avoid telephoning about enquiries regarding Coronavirus vaccinations. All the information should be available in your NHS invitation and on the NHS and gov.uk website.

The nursing team has worked tirelessly throughout the pandemic providing face to face appointments.

The doctors and nurse practitioners have been using telephone triage to ensure the waiting room does not become overcrowded, placing our most vulnerable patients at risk.

Although Coronavirus cases remain significantly high, hospital admissions due to Coronavirus remain relatively low, so since the beginning of September we are allowing patients to book face to face appointments without requiring a telephone triage.

However, we are still in the pandemic and request that you wear a face mask when attending the surgery and continue to social distance.

Patients must not attend the surgery if they have possible Coronavirus symptoms. If you need to be seen this can be arranged in the Hot Room (see below).

Remember: if you have symptoms, a negative lateral flow test does not exclude Coronavirus.

The Hot Room

If you have any possible symptoms of Coronavirus, including new cough, breathlessness, fever or change in taste or smell and need to see a doctor, please book a telephone triage appointment. The doctor will then assess your condition and may ask you to attend our Hot room, which is located at the back of Hadleigh Lodge Surgery, Corfe Mullen.

If you have any questions regarding Coronavirus (COVID-19), symptoms, self- isolation, or obtaining a test etc. please follow this link:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

National Blood Bottle Shortage

Many of you will be aware that there has been a national shortage of blood bottles and we have had to defer routine blood tests.

Blood bottle supply is now returning to normal levels.

Unfortunately, we have a substantial waiting list for routine blood tests, and it is going to take many weeks for our staff to catch up with routine blood tests. Urgent blood tests and those required for the safety of certain medications e.g. Methotrexate will continue as normal.

Park Run - <https://www.parkrun.org.uk>

Parkrun has returned to Upton Country Park and other locations. This is free for everyone and great, not only for physical fitness but invaluable for mental health too. Everyone is welcome, whether you walk, jog, run, volunteer or spectate. You might even spot some of our doctors, nurses and other staff! Don't forget the free NHS couch to 5k App to get you started!
<https://www.nhs.uk/live-well/exercise/get-running-with-couch-to-5k/>

Feedback

If you have a positive experience at the Hadleigh Practice, we would be most grateful if you could take a few minutes to write a review on the NHS choices website:

Hadleigh Lodge, Corfe Mullen: <https://bit.ly/34tQs7R>

Hadleigh House, Broadstone: <https://bit.ly/3n8Gv89>

We hope you have a healthy winter and take this early opportunity of wishing you a merry Christmas and a happy new year.

Dr Robert Timmis

