

May Newsletter

Firstly, thank you all for the wonderful send off you have given Dr Warner. He really appreciated all the cards and retirement events and it was lovely to see how many people will miss his clinical expertise (including us).

However I am delighted to say we have a new GP who has started this month.

Dr Edward Dennison has worked in the area for several years, and so knows our Herefordshire systems well. Some of you may have already met him through his work with the Covid Medicines Delivery Unit, helping those who are eligible for community COVID 19 treatments to access them. We are pleased to welcome him to Kingstone, where he will be working for 2 days a week.

COVID news

Unlike the rest of the population, NHS staff are still required to do regular lateral flow tests and are unable to work if they are COVID positive- for up to 10 days. Unfortunately this means that at times it is hard for us not to have a disrupted service as local COVID rates are still high. This month we have had admin, medical and nursing staff all testing positive and having to keep away- all adding to extra pressure.

Still on the topic of COVID, we also really appreciate how good most surgery-users are at wearing face masks in the building even though this is no longer common practice elsewhere. Many of you have also done lateral flow tests before coming into the surgery with fever symptoms. As you all know, finally the official list of recognised symptoms has been expanded to a much broader range (<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/symptoms/main-symptoms/>).

We also appreciate it when you let our reception staff know if you may have any covid symptoms when booking an appointment, as it all helps to protect our most vulnerable patients and staff.

Vaccination news:

Covid jabs are also now available for 5-11 year olds via Taurus Healthcare- see here for more information and how to book.

<https://www.herefordshiregeneralpractice.co.uk/for-patients/vaccination-clinics>

Also regarding vaccinations, if you are over 65 you are eligible for a one off 'pneumonia jab' to protect against infection with streptococcal pneumonia. This adds long lasting protection and I thoroughly recommend it. Our new nurse Sonia Trickett can now deliver these as well, so please feel free to book in for one if you have not yet had it.

Opening news:

Please remember we will be closed for the long Jubilee bank holiday at the end of this month.

Finally, we have been keeping the grass long again in the surgery grounds to help support the wildlife. Within the surgery we have frequent (and lively) discussions about 'Nature vs Neatness'.... So far 'Nature' is winning!